CHRISTIAN SCIENCE WAR TIME ACTIVITIES

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A REPORT
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
THE MOTHER CHURCH
BY
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE

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"BELOVED STUDENTS, *loyal laborers are ye that have wrought valiantly, and achieved great guerdons in the vineyard of our Lord; but a mighty victory is yet to be won, a great freedom for the race; and Christian success is under arms, —with armor on, not laid down.*"

MARY BAKER EDDY,

Miscellaneous Writings, page 120.

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INTRODUCTION

THE fine spirit of cooperation shown by Christian Scientists everywhere in the carrying on of the various war time activities of our denomination, and their unbounded interest in and enthusiasm for the work in all its phases, has produced far-reaching results. These being yet, in point of time, so close to the events themselves, however, it is difficult for one to form a just and impartial estimate of their importance. It has not been possible heretofore to present in a complete and orderly sequence the steps which, during the nearly five years that have marked the world's great unrest, were taken by the Christian Science Church to aid, both in spiritual and material ways, those whose lives were affected in varying degrees by the fortunes of war. The time has now come, however, when it is not alone possible but most desirable to submit to the Christian Science field a full report of the war work undertaken by the movement.

In preparing this report the aim has been to produce an accurate historical record of achievements, which will at all times be well balanced and which will not, for obvious reasons, unduly enlarge upon any single phase of the work. Covering the years 1914-1919, years of unwonted activity, there has naturally been a great wealth of material from which to select, all of it valuable and important. Thus the chief task has been the elimination of a great quantity of subject-matter equal in all respects to that included. The plan

therefore, has been to deal broadly with the whole subject and yet to introduce here and there, in detail, typical instances which serve to illustrate specifically the more important lines of activity followed in the United States and abroad, especially where these serve to illuminate the metaphysical purpose which lay behind all the Committee's efforts, and to give the results obtained by the application of divine law as taught in Christian Science, to all the varied and complex problems presented.

A War Relief Committee was appointed by the Christian Science Board of Directors of The Mother Church in 1914. In 1917 a Camp Welfare Committee was also appointed by the same authority. These were merged in 1918 and subsequently the words "Camp Welfare" were omitted from the title. It is this Committee which submits the following report, in which is included the story of the efforts and achievements of others as well, for the many war time activities of Christian Scientists, working singly and in groups all over the world since the autumn of 1914, have been so closely interwoven that it is impossible to tell the story properly otherwise. Noteworthy instances of these exceptions will be found in the chapters "Helping Halifax," "A Unique Committee" and "Timely Recognition."

The fall of 1914 witnessed the establishment of the War Relief Fund of The Mother Church. The Comforts Forwarding Committee began its work in the latter part of 1917 and early in December of the same year, the Halifax Relief Committee made its notable trip to Nova Scotia. The first army chaplain was appointed at almost the same time, this appointment being followed at short intervals by

others, until ten were serving in the army and navy. The War Relief Committee for Great Britain and Ireland originally appointed in 1914 was enlarged in scope in 1918 by the Christian Science Board of Directors, who at that time selected three persons to carry on the larger work planned. Though in no sense under the direction of the American Committee, the work in the United Kingdom was modeled largely after that in the United States and was an extension of the work established in 1915 and the years following at Chatham, Dover, Aldershot, Bedford and Colchester by the united churches of the London district, in Ripon by the churches of Yorkshire, and in Edinburgh and Dublin and Newcastle by the local churches interested.

Even to a group of people so accustomed as are Christian Scientists to seeing the so-called impossible accomplished, the progress of the work of this Committee during the late months of 1917 and the earlier ones of 1918 was astonishing. The rapid and successful building of the organization which cared so satisfactorily for the work in the American and British training camps, and served so remarkably well both the American and the British Expeditionary Forces in France and elsewhere, was the result of genuine and sustained teamwork, a unified effort which was unselfish and generous beyond praise. This support, always extended in a whole-hearted and unquestioning manner by those at home, was undoubtedly the chief explanation of the splendid results obtained. With such backing, success was inevitable.

As individual Christian Scientists, living in far corners of the world, unorganized groups scattered here and there, societies and churches, large and small,

had responded to the opportunity to aid the war sufferers, when it was first presented to them in 1914, so they eagerly answered the call made in November, 1917, to extend this work. Thus within a period of sixty days, the entire Christian Science movement in the United States was completely organized and in a large measure at work, along lines which we shall fully cover. This report would be incomplete without a full recognition of the invaluable assistance rendered by State Committees and their corresponding subcommittees located in every town and city where a Christian Science Church or Society existed. On these committees more than two thousand persons served voluntarily and without compensation. The service rendered was highly important and nearly always entailed large contributions of time and effort. In fact it was the framework of the structure which, when put to the test, as it was on many occasions, proved staunch and strong at all points, and able to respond quickly and effectively to all calls made upon it.

There were employed by these Committees on November 11, 1918, more than two hundred persons serving, some as Camp Workers, others as Welfare Room attendants, and a few in other important capacities. These persons devoted their full time to the work, often lived in the camps and were subject to transfer without notice. The policy of the Board of Directors, in the matter of compensation paid the salaried workers, was generous and in every case enabled them to carry on their work free from financial anxiety. The body of the report will bear rich and varied testimony as to the high character and value of the work performed by these men and women. In camp

and hospital, at home and in foreign lands, working under strange and oftentimes most difficult conditions, they proved worthy of the high responsibility reposed in them.

At the time of the greatest activity, there were in operation in the United States, Canada, England and France, something over one hundred Welfare rooms, tents and buildings. Some of these are pictured in the pages of this report. These photographs indicate the care and thought given to this important branch of the work. In our own buildings and equipment, including some additional tents and rooms elsewhere, the Committee had invested upward of $150,000. Equipment has been disposed of advantageously, in many instances at better than sixty per cent of its cost. Of the buildings erected in or near camps, it is hoped that at least two will become the permanent church homes of groups of Christian Scientists in those localities. The gift of another has been asked by a local hospital for a free clinic. Two have reverted to the owners of the land on which they were located according to provisions in the original leases. Several others are still to be disposed of. Of all the Committee's assets at the time of its demobilization, the buildings were perhaps in the main the most difficult to realize upon. Considerably better than fifty per cent was secured from the sale of automobiles which at one time represented an investment of in excess of $40,000. Of the two boats owned by the Committee, both have been sold at advantageous prices. In these as in other matters, great credit must be given to the State Committees, who not only invested the funds in the first instance but who faithfully conserved and disposed of the assets when the work was concluded. The most

important thing done by the Committee was, of course, the distribution of the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy. In the neighborhood of forty thousand copies were distributed without cost to the recipient. At the same time large quantities of Bibles were also given out and during the year 1918 more than six million copies of the Monitor were distributed. These figures alone speak volumes for the activity and tireless energy of the workers to whom fell the bulk of the distribution work involved.

Great praise is due the splendid workers in the United Kingdom for the way in which they started the work in the earlier years of the war and expanded it from year to year despite formidable obstacles. American readers will especially appreciate the story of the work there as presented in this report by the Committee for Great Britain and Ireland. The Trustees under Mrs. Eddy's Will aided the English work substantially in its earlier days through the purchase of literature for distribution.

The story of the work in France is quite out of the ordinary and for that and other reasons will strongly appeal to all Christian Scientists. While the workers selected for the service had many extremely interesting and unusual experiences, it should be remembered that they had not a few unusual burdens to bear, since conditions in France in 1918 were in many respects difficult and trying.

The administration of the fund in foreign lands deserves the warmest commendation. Concerning this work as carried on in England, France and Italy, the report will be quite complete. Less, however, can be related of that done in Holland, Denmark and Swit-

zerland, for the reason that personal contact with these countries during the latter years of the war was most difficult and information is only now slowly filtering in. In these places, however, devoted Scientists have been administering the funds of the Committee wisely and helpfully and doing great good.

The information contained in the section of the report devoted to Finance is most gratifying and indicates that many willing hands make any task a light and joyous one, and the stories of personal experiences in the concluding section will make us all glad.

These various and widely separated activities are brought together in this report and, as far as possible, correlated and arranged so that each section fits into the story chronologically.

The First Camp Welfare Building, Camp Merritt, New Jersey

I

BEGINNINGS

WHEN the fires of conflict were first kindled in August, 1914, it took some months for the enlightened nations of the earth to awaken to the fact that a gigantic struggle for human liberty had been forced upon them. Christian Scientists, however, though at first but faintly, perceived the true nature of the problem which the world was vainly trying to solve through a dependence upon human means and methods. They became more and more convinced that it was impossible to maintain an attitude of neutrality towards the world war for the reason that only those nations which had some understanding of Principle, as revealed in Christian Science, were adequately armed and equipped to carry a righteous cause to a victorious conclusion. Until the American nation as a whole attained to some realization of this fact, Christian Scientists in that country were obliged to work more or less as individuals, but the constant desire to help in the solution of the world problem crystallized itself in the establishment of the War Relief Fund by the Board of Directors of The Mother Church, and accordingly the following announcement appeared in the Christian Science Sentinel of October 24, 1914:

A RELIEF FUND

"The many Christian Scientists who have desired to contribute to the relief of those of our people who are enduring

the hardships which war entails, will welcome the opportunity afforded by the following letter, a copy of which has been mailed to all branch churches and societies in the United States:

"'To the Christian Science Churches and Societies in the United States.

"'Dear Friends:

"'This Board has been informed that, as a consequence of the war in Europe, Christian Scientists in the countries affected are in great distress. As a means of relieving this distress, The Mother Church will take a collection at both of its services on Sunday, October 25. If your organization should desire to take similar action this Board will be glad to forward to reliable committees of Christian Scientists whatever amounts you may send for this purpose.

"'Remittances may be sent to Adam H. Dickey, Treasurer, 103 Falmouth Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

"'Very sincerely,

"'THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

"'BY JOHN V. DITTEMORE, Secretary.'"

In the fall of that year a member of the Board of Lectureship was called to undertake a trip to Europe in order to organize relief committees in the different countries. This delegate was provided with the proper credentials from The Mother Church describing the object of his mission, and went to Washington to secure a passport. There he had interviews with the Secretary of State and some of the ambassadors accredited to the United States from the warring nations, receiving their hearty commendation of the plan.

The delegate sailed from New York on November 16, 1914, and on his arrival in London requested the

Committee on Publication for Great Britain and Ireland, to call a relief committee representing the whole of the British Isles.

The members of this committee were asked to administer the fund which was originally intended to assist Christian Scientists who had been placed in financial difficulty by the outbreak of the war. There were families where fathers had been called to the colors, leaving wives and children totally unprepared to earn a living. There were men whose business affairs had been wiped out of existence by the declaration of war. There were students, teachers, artists, who found their livelihood taken away, as it were, overnight, because people felt forced to do without the so-called luxuries of life. Many persons found their income stopped or greatly curtailed because they held securities in some of the countries involved in the struggle. In short, there were many cases where Christian Scientists were faced with the problem of demonstrating that supply is invariable and unlimited. To lift the sense of fear for such as these and so enable them to perceive the ever-presence of God's care, was the aim of the War Relief Fund. In proportion as it was seen that the love which prompted the gifts of Christian Scientists to the fund was the real substance of the help extended, fear was cast out, and individuals were able to dispense with further aid from the fund. Not only so but they were put in a position to help others, thus proving again the spiritual fact that "whatever blesses one blesses all" (Science and Health, page 206). A most interesting illustration of this point which occurred in France through the work of a sculptress will be related in more detail in the chapter devoted to that country.

The plans devised for the distribution of the fund in Great Britain served as a model for the committees of other countries visited by the delegate from the Christian Science Board of Directors. A call was made in London upon the representatives of the United States Government and when the purpose of our fund was told them their verdict was expressed in the words, "That is splendid." In Paris plans were perfected for a committee of four to handle the war relief work for France. A joint meeting of the two churches in Paris was addressed by the delegate, to familiarize the membership with the working plan of the relief fund. In Paris, too, the delegate found the American embassy most cordial, and was told that The Christian Science Monitor was always to be found there.

Similar committees were organized in Geneva for French-speaking Switzerland and at Zurich for German-speaking Switzerland. Then in accordance with instructions from the Christian Science Board of Directors, the delegate made arrangements to extend the benefits of the relief fund to Christian Scientists in Germany also. Here the difficulties encountered at first seemed somewhat discouraging, but with the help of the Committee on Publication in Zurich a necessary letter was secured from the German ambassador at Berne and the journey undertaken. A stop was made at Stuttgart where a member of the Christian Science Society was visited and a message left for the Society explaining the purpose of the relief fund. In Berlin a committee representing the Christian Science Churches and Societies of Germany met to handle the portion of the relief fund which was assigned to them.

West Entrance to Welfare Building, Camp Merritt, New Jersey

Christian Science War Relief Building, Camp Merritt, New Jersey

The Bubbler Fountain, Camp Merritt, New Jersey

After the entrance of Italy into the world struggle a committee was organized in that country through the initiative of Christian Scientists in Florence, the administration of the fund being like that of the other committees in Europe. A committee was also organized in Holland. Many touching incidents marked the delegate's trip. By means of a special fund he was able to bring much-needed assistance to individuals who were in immediate need. Frequently the fear of those in want was so quickly overcome that they wrote stating that there was no further need for help. The tragedies of the war were mitigated for many, unavoidable separations were bridged over and the healing work stimulated.

December 5, 1914, the fund was opened to non-Scientists in the following announcement which was made to the field.

MORE RELIEF NEEDED

"In the Sentinel of October 24, a call was issued for contributions to a fund for the relief of Christian Scientists who were in distress as a consequence of the present war. In response to this call the generous sum of $80,413.90 has been received, and this fund will be distributed to Christian Scientists by committees now being organized by William D. McCrackan, who is in Europe for that purpose. It is believed that the amount of money now in hand will be sufficient for the needs of Christian Scientists, and for the present at least this fund will be closed.

"There is, however, great need of funds for the relief of hundreds of thousands of others besides our own people who are in poverty and distress by reason of the war, and a collection for their benefit will be taken in The Mother Church

at both services on Sunday, December 6. Any branch church or society which takes similar action may remit to Adam H. Dickey, Treasurer, 103 Falmouth Street, Boston, Massachusetts, and such amounts as are received will be forwarded to the same committees of Christian Scientists for distribution."

In the Sentinel of April 3, 1915, the following report on the War Relief Fund made it a permanent war fund of The Mother Church:

RELIEF FUND FOR WAR SUFFERERS

"In response to the call for contributions for the relief of Christian Scientists in distress by reason of the present war in Europe, the sum of $82,104.02 has been received by the Treasurer of The Mother Church. Of this amount, $77,595.51 has been disbursed to the relief committees organized by Mr. McCrackan in England, Germany, France, and Switzerland, as called for by them. Much gratitude has been expressed by the Christian Scientists in these countries for the help extended to them by their brethren in America.

"In addition to the $82,104.02 collected for the relief of Christian Scientists, there has also been collected the sum of $29,154.90 for the relief of war sufferers other than Christian Scientists. This entire amount has been disbursed to relief committees of Christian Scientists in Holland, England, France, and Switzerland. The total amount received to date for these two funds is $111,258.92, of which but $4508.51 remains unexpended. As the need for help still continues, this small balance will not last long; therefore Christian Scientists are given the opportunity to continue to send contributions to the Treasurer of The Mother Church for this relief work. For the future it is proposed to maintain but one fund, and from this both Christian Scientists and others will be assisted."

From that date a continuous and steady flow of voluntary offerings poured into the office of the Treasurer of The Mother Church with the desire of bringing some measure of relief to the countries of the world where war was working its devastations. With the declaration of war by the United States the needs were brought much closer home and the establishment of the Christian Science Camp Welfare Committee called for ample funds to maintain and support its activities.

In November, 1917, the Manager of this committee started on a tour of the United States for the purpose of organizing State Committees who should have jurisdiction over the work within their borders and who should aid in raising funds for the maintenance of the activity.

In January, 1918, a Camp Welfare account was opened by the Treasurer of The Mother Church.

Christian Scientists in some of the states had already subscribed thousands of dollars for work among the enlisted men in their own neighborhoods. It soon became evident, however, that such a distribution of the financial burden was neither feasible nor just. Such a state as South Carolina, for instance, had three national army cantonments within its borders while a state like Minnesota had none. Moreover, there was a much larger percentage of Christian Scientists in some states than in others, so that it was decided very early in the development of the Camp Welfare activities to have a fund administered by The Mother Church to which each state would send its contributions for the support of the committee. Each State Committee had a Financial Secretary in charge of this work and through the fund each state

was supplied with a Revolving Account sufficient to meet the demands made upon it for work in the camps within its borders.

It was early made plain that the Camp Welfare Committee must have the assurance of a regular income to the fund and to meet this need the State Committees adopted various means and methods. In some cases branch churches pledged themselves to give so much a month, or a total lump sum to be paid within a certain date. Again, individuals subscribed a stipulated sum monthly to the fund. It was pointed out by many of the State Committees that if individuals pledged themselves to pay regularly even so small a sum as one dollar per month the Camp Welfare Committee would have a bountiful income, sufficient to meet every need. Many persons adopted this method of giving and many others sent in contributions from time to time. At the services conducted by the men in khaki and blue, collections were often taken voluntarily and were added to the general fund.

As the magnitude of the work in the camps began to dawn upon the thought of those in charge, it was seen that it would tremendously simplify the administration of the fund and obviate duplication of work for the Treasurer of The Mother Church to consolidate the Camp Welfare and War Relief Funds. Accordingly on March 23, 1918, it was announced in the Christian Science Sentinel that thereafter all disbursements would be made from the consolidated fund.

II

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA

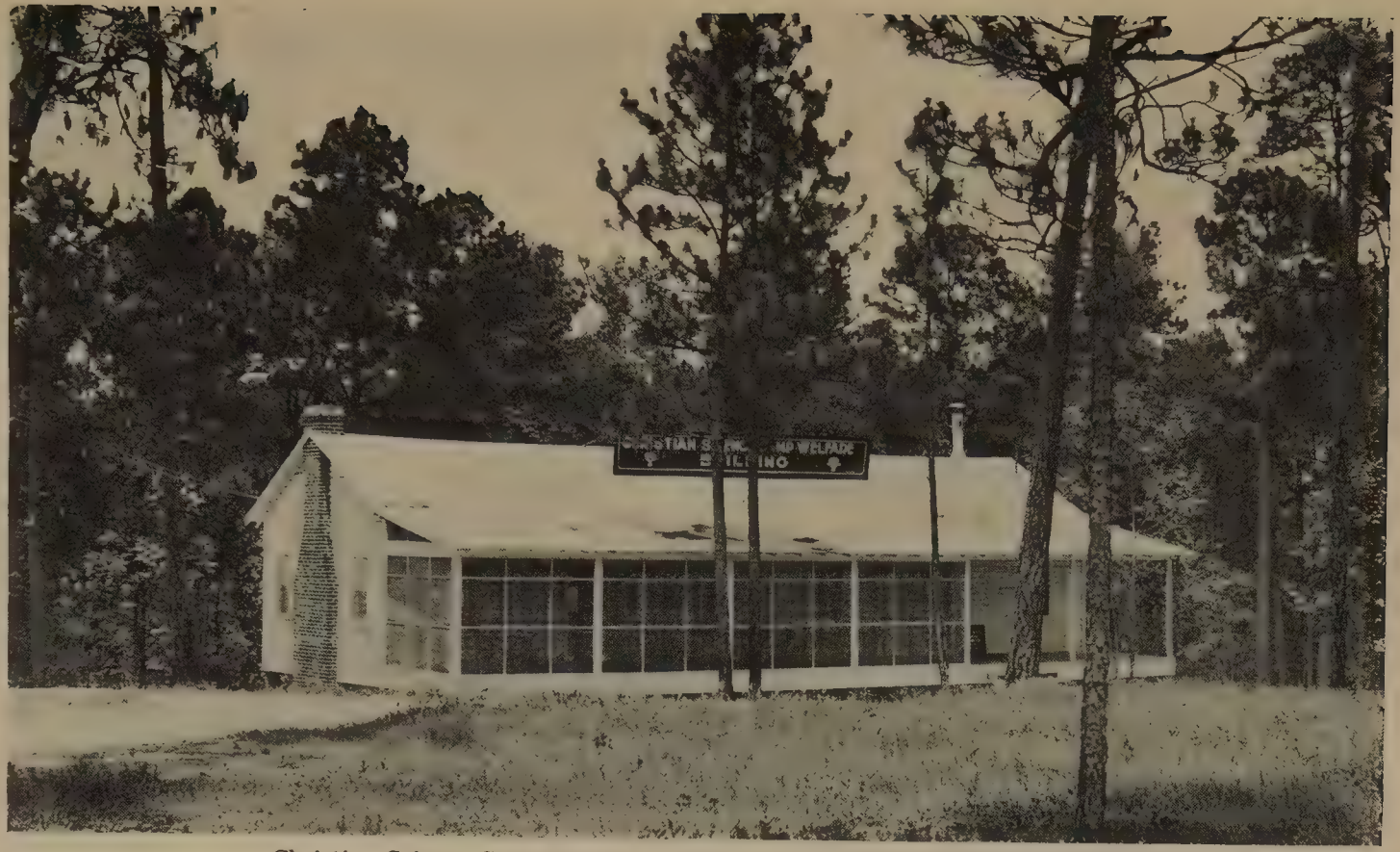
ENGLAND

When the cataclysm of August, 1914, shook human consciousness to its depths, and revealed as never before the precariousness of all merely material dependence, humanity found itself face to face with such unprecedented difficulties and hitherto unconceived terrors that "men's hearts failed them for fear." This upheaval, however, brought with it a more comprehensive revelation of the compassionate mission of Christian Science and provided an opportunity for Christian Scientists to serve mankind in many ways that might never have arisen otherwise. The first evidence of this was the establishment in December, 1914, of The Mother Church Relief Fund to aid sufferers through the war. A representative was sent by the Christian Science Board of Directors of The Mother Church to Great Britain and Ireland to initiate the work. This representative formed a series of committees consisting, all told, of nineteen delegates from various sections of the United Kingdom, all under the chairmanship of the District Manager of Committees on Publication for Great Britain and Ireland. Grants from the fund were sent from Boston and distributed to the committees in accordance with requests received from them. During a period of three and a half years, from January, 1915, to July, 1918,

relief was extended to more than 2600 cases in this way. Although Christian Scientists in the United Kingdom and the Colonies were naturally most anxious to contribute to The Mother Church Relief Fund, it was then impossible for them to do so under the Defence of the Realm Act, inasmuch as a portion of the fund would be used to aid sufferers in the countries with which the United Kingdom and her Colonies were at war.

The needs to be met at the time the fund was opened differed somewhat from those which subsequently presented themselves. The war broke out with startling suddenness and many well-to-do people found themselves reduced to poverty almost in a night. In these opening days, consequently, the need was often for substantial sums to prevent the collapse of small businesses, to carry on the education of children, or to train individuals for professions to take the place of those which war conditions had swept away. A great deal of help was also extended to landladies in districts which suffered heavily from air raids and bombardments. Much also was done for the relief of those in absolute destitution. In one instance, one of the local committees found a woman who had been struggling for six weeks to support herself and four children on five shillings and sixpence a week. She would neither run in debt, nor beg, and when she was found, there was literally nothing in the house, both she and the children being in a pitiful condition, having had no food for twenty-four hours. The family is now well cared for, and the woman's gratitude is very great.

Another case was that of a young German woman married to a Church of England clergyman, who



Christian Science Camp Welfare Building, Camp Jackson, South Carolina

obtained a separation from her at the outbreak of the war because she was a German. Under the deed of separation she received thirteen shillings and five pence maintenance money, but owing to the strong feeling against her nationality she was not able to get work to supplement this sum. She is not a Christian Scientist but has found that the only alleviation of her circumstances has come through Christian Science and is extremely grateful for the relief extended to her each week. Recently she returned to Germany, saying that she would at once look up the nearest Christian Science Reading Room and tell of the loving treatment she has received through The Mother Church Fund.

In one instance where help was given in very sad circumstances, the recipient wrote that she had no idea that her affairs were known to anyone, or that there was such a blessing as The Mother Church Relief Fund. She said that the gift was a most wonderful answer to her prayers.

Relief was also extended to a number of working dressmakers, whose small businesses failed in the early days of the war. Several struggling artists and musicians whose means of livelihood abruptly stopped, were also helped for a period. A number of boarding-house keepers at some of the popular seaside resorts, were likewise recipients of relief from the fund. The war broke out just at the beginning of the summer season, and the towns, particularly on the east coast, lost many of their usual summer visitors through the anticipation of enemy raids by sea or by air, and through the necessary military regulations regarding coast defence.

Excerpts from several of the many letters received

by the General Committee administering the fund for Great Britain give a clear indication of the good accomplished in that country.

One says:

"Enclosed please find receipt for the balances of the amount so generously granted me by The Mother Church, for which we are profoundly thankful. It has indeed been the means of giving us a fresh start in life unburdened with debts. . . . Am pleased to inform you that the improvement in health continues and I appear to be steadily gaining in strength, in fact all my friends remark how well I am looking lately, thanks to Christian Science."

A Committee reports:

"I am sure it will interest you to hear of another proof of the unity of good. The people with whom I was able to place Mrs. W. through the allowance made to her by the War Relief Fund are receiving such benefit. The man, a clerk in the Post Office, has been away from work for sixteen weeks. Mrs. W. told him about Christian Science and he got Science and Health and read constantly, with the result that he is now back at work and he and his wife have begun to attend our services."

Another:

"This morning I received a letter from a lady, enclosing one pound for the fund, and writing: 'Two years ago I was the recipient of ten pounds from this fund, which enabled me, amongst other things, to visit a Christian Science friend. From that time my needs have always been met and I felt very strongly the right thought which must accompany these gifts from Scientists in America and elsewhere.' "

A local Committee in England writes:

"You will be glad to hear that the two cases which have received the largest donations from the fund in this district,

have, through this help, been able to make a magnificent demonstration and have repaid more to the local funds in subscriptions than they originally received."

Another beneficiary says:

"I herewith hand you £60, sixty pounds, in bank notes for the War Relief Fund.

"In December the first year of the war, as you know, I had lost all my business and was owing my house rent and taxes to the amount of £55. This had got on top of me to the extent that I did not seem to be able to think of anything clearly and was in the depths of despair, not seeing any way out of the seeming trouble. At this time you spoke to me of the War Relief Fund, just then available, with the result that a cheque for the £55 was sent to me. The receipt of this money, coming as it did with such loving thought behind it, lifted the heavy cloud, and from that day I was a new man and was able to help myself.

"I have gradually worked up a new business and although there have been times of trial, still I have been able to look to the only source for the solving of all problems and know that He does not look at the seeming faults, mistakes, misdirected efforts, etc., but sees only the perfect man.

"I have many times wanted to give a good amount to this fund but it is only now that I have been able to make the perfect demonstration.

"Words are inadequate to express my very deep gratitude but I know that others will be blessed, as I have been, through this fund."

After the appointment in 1918 of the Christian Science War Relief Committee for Great Britain and Ireland, a letter was received from the Christian Science Board of Directors recommending the reorganization of the administration of the War Relief Fund, and advising that relief should be extended only to

refugees or those in actual destitution. The problem of unemployment had almost disappeared in 1918, owing to the large numbers engaged in munition making, or kindred activities. Therefore, the nature of the relief work changed considerably, and the number of cases helped was greatly reduced. The endeavor was made to have the War Relief agent in charge of a case make the payments weekly, thereby keeping in close touch with the recipient, and giving such encouragement and advice from the metaphysical standpoint as would go far towards healing the condition of poverty. In several cases the metaphysical work done by the agent brought about the financial healing before there was time for the Committee to extend the relief which was sought.

On page IX of the Preface to Miscellaneous Writings, Mrs. Eddy writes:

> "A certain apothegm of a Talmudical philosopher suits my sense of doing good. It reads thus: 'The noblest charity is to prevent a man from accepting charity; and the best alms are to show and to enable a man to dispense with alms.' "

This "sense of doing good" has been held as the ideal in distributing the War Relief Fund, and there has been ample proof of the wisdom and fruitfulness of such a method. In one instance the small payment of ten shillings was made to a man who had been discharged from the army as incurable. He was unable to work, and his wife was ill. Christian Science treatment was given and within a week, the man was completely healed and able to take up an excellent position.

Relief was given to a Belgian refugee and her sick husband. The woman was a munition worker during

At Ayer, Camp Devens, Massachusetts

Camp Pike, Arkansas

The War Relief Room, Cleveland, Ohio

A Corner of the Room at Hampton, Virginia

the war, but after the factory closed she was out of work for some time. When the unemployment pay came to an end, she was without means of supply while awaiting repatriation, and owing to her husband's continued illness, she was the sole breadwinner. On hearing of the case an allowance was at once made from the War Relief Fund for the necessary period. A Christian Scientist visited the husband on behalf of the Committee and had several good talks with him, which resulted in a great improvement in his physical condition. Within a short time the arrangements for repatriation were completed and the couple returned to Belgium. A message has been received announcing their safe and happy arrival at home, and saying that the husband is now well.

An elderly woman of seventy-three years, who was in great poverty, received help, and through this was introduced to the subject of Christian Science. She told the practitioner who called on her that her only son had been killed in France, and that she had prayed both day and night to God to heal her broken heart. As she could not read, the textbook, which she now loves, was read aloud to her, and she recently remarked that "no bottle of medicine could touch the heart as that black book does. It has healed my broken one, and made me a better woman."

HOLLAND

It was to hospitable little Holland that many people, forced to become refugees through the war, fled for safety and shelter. There were consequently many calls upon the War Relief Fund of The Mother Church coming from persons of various nationalities.

The fund was administered in Holland by the Committee on Publication for that country, and in one of the reports we read:

"We are so grateful for the help the Christian Scientists in America are giving us. I am sure each of them would feel amply rewarded if he could hear the expressions of gratitude of the people we have been able to help in Holland. And to think that this blessed work is going on in many other countries is indeed glorious!"

A Dutch lady writes:

"What a relief and what a splendid gift I received from the War Relief Fund. Not only my immediate needs are all supplied, but the principal thing is that I received a tangible proof of God's love and know from experience that He never leaves those who trust in Him."

Says a student:

"I acknowledge the receipt of the 200 florins from the War Relief Fund. I am very grateful to the Committee that makes it possible for me in this way to provide for my future, and it certainly will be a stimulus to do all I can to pass the examination successfully."

From the same student somewhat later:

"You surely will be pleased to hear that I have successfully passed the examination. As it was through your medium that I received the help from the Christian Science War Relief Fund which made it possible to continue my study I want to thank you once more."

An Englishman writes from The Hague:

"I am most happy to inform you that my family came through from Belgium last week.

"My wife joins me in thanking you and the other members of the Committee most sincerely for the munificent manner

in which you came forward to our assistance in our trouble. We shall never forget the sympathy and kindness we have experienced in this hospitable country and shall always remember with gratitude those to whom we are so much indebted for bringing an end to our long separation.

"This loan shall be amongst the first that will have my attention as soon as I am in a position to repay same."

Another whose burden was lightened writes:

"Thank you so much for the help received, by means of which we were able to redeem our belongings from the pawnbroker and to buy some warm clothes for my husband. We have passed through great poverty as my husband was without work for a long time and we were forced to sell much of our furniture. To our delight he has just found work, too. Will you please thank the Christian Scientists for the help God inspired them to give us?"

From a society for the relief of interned soldiers came the following:

"In the name of '*L'Œuvre de l'Interné*' we thank you heartily for the splendid gift of 500 florins which you sent to our Commander, General J., from the War Relief Fund of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Mass."

These are only a few of the cases which might be cited to show that The Mother Church Fund was the means of bringing relief, comfort and solace to those on whom war had cast its shadow in Holland.

SWITZERLAND

In German-speaking Switzerland the headquarters of the War Relief Fund were at Zurich, in French-speaking Switzerland at Geneva. Like Holland, the

country was filled to overflowing with those who sought a refuge from the storm of war and among them were many to whom the fund of The Mother Church came, bringing peace where there had been anxiety, health where there had been sickness, and trust where there had been only the blank outlook of utter hopelessness and despair.

What joy it brings to the hearts of all who have helped make the fund possible to hear the following story of one whom the Committee in Zurich was able to aid:

"I became acquainted with a woman who was bending under her load of troubles. She was in debt and lacked even the absolute necessities, her husband being at the frontier. (He had been obliged to do service three times in the interval of one year.) She received only a small subsidy for herself and her child, just enough not to perish from starvation.

"Before the war her husband had a small business and the wife kept a boarding house. They lived comfortably until 1914 when the war started; then misery began. The husband's business failed entirely; the boarders left to serve under the flag and thus a hard time began for the wife. When her husband left for the frontier she was deprived of his support. The state of fear in which she found herself over the rent and the debts to be paid resulted in illness and she had to undergo two operations for goiter. This woman became so irritable and embittered that she made the home for her child a veritable hell. Then error held full sway.

"I felt attracted toward the child, who was about thirteen at that time, and was very much impressed by the confidence she had in God, that they would be delivered from their moral and material misery. I then realized that here was an opportunity to apply the truth of Christian Science and by and by I began to see results with the child. Her disposition became greatly changed so that the mother was astonished. Later,

when the opportunity occurred I approached the mother, and with her also, after a time, the inharmonious conditions began to give place to harmony; slowly a great transformation took place. There was, however, the cloud of her indebtedness hanging over her. I then asked for aid on her behalf from the War Relief Committee in Zurich. The sum of 300 francs was given her to pay off the most urgent debts.

"To the poor woman this was a fortune falling from heaven. She could never have dreamed of such a solution. This money, given to her by Love, was the beginning of a new life. The oppressing fears were lifted, and one can truthfully say that blessings were showered upon the family. The child was given shoes, clothing, hats and all necessary things. The husband being, up to that time, in a trying and poorly paid position in the army, was transferred without any special effort to a higher grade. His officer showed so much interest in him that he gave him 100 francs to send to his family, and when at the end of his term of service, the supplies of the company were sold, he received enough to provide for himself for some time.

"The wife herself is completely transformed. She is very happy to have regained her strength so that now she is able to do her washing and housework. She is freed from her asthmatic trouble so that there is no need of a further operation, and often I have the pleasure of looking in her face, now full of contentment, and of hearing her say: 'How happy I am! How happy I am! What would have become of us if you had not told us about Christian Science!' "

Another recipient of help from the Zurich Committee writes:

"At this time I would like to express my gratitude to the Christian Scientists for all the love and kindness shown to their European brothers by helping them financially. I am one of those who have been helped twice by the local Committee, having received 50 francs each time. In the meantime,

divine Love has provided for me so that for the present I need no help. I am very grateful to have been led to Christian Science and it is my sincere desire to express in my daily life the teachings of Christian Science."

"Kind deeds of peace and love betray
Where'er the stream has found its way,"

says one of our hymns and the excerpts which follow surely furnish illuminating proof of this fact.

"Just a short note to inform you that we have duly received the money and the groceries, and to express our deepest thanks for the gift. May God bless you. I want to tell you how glad I am for having been led to Christian Science, for I now have much more faith in God than before. I also greatly enjoy the Christian Science literature, and as soon as my husband has a position we will subscribe ourselves. Again, our heartfelt thanks to all the givers."

"Your relief money has helped me out of many a strait in these difficult times. How often has want appeared at my door before I received your present. God has helped me again. He does not forsake us. Since I have turned to Christian Science I have peace and quiet. Every day I see the good, for which I am thankful to God. And I am also thankful that He led me to Christian Science. Our Leader, Mrs. Eddy, must have been a pious and God-fearing woman, whom God had appointed to bring, through her great love, blessings and peace to so many people. What a noble and rich heritage she has left us!"

"I consider it my duty to convey to you my sincerest thanks for the loving gifts from The Mother Church in Boston extended to me through your Relief Committee. I have also read a great deal in Der Herold and am pleased to say that my condition shows a marked improvement."

The Chairman of the Zurich Committee writes:

"I am sure our American friends who contributed to the fund will be pleased that they have been able to help these fellow men (English prisoners of war) with some small gifts. Some of them have been prisoners since August, 1914. We bought handkerchiefs and washing gloves, things very much needed by them, put one or two of them in a parcel and added to each an English pamphlet, by choosing some with a neutral title, like, for instance, 'Upward Footsteps,' and handed it to them from the platform with a hundred Monitors. The latter we are sending to them now regularly and receive letters of appreciation. In a similar way we are working with the French and German prisoners."

A sheaf of grateful letters sent to the War Relief Committee at Geneva give some evidence of the harvest to be garnered in that fruitful field.

"I should like to express my gratitude towards the Committee of the War Relief Fund and to all those who are generously contributing to this cause, which came to our aid in a moment of need. My husband has been earning very little during the four years of war. We have had the great privilege of becoming acquainted with Christian Science which is teaching us that God is Love and the source of all that is good. With this knowledge we have been wonderfully preserved from all evil and our condition has changed and improved. Thanks to this teaching we understand God better and are very grateful for this."

"Will you thank the Christian Science Committee for all the good that we have received spiritually and financially? Science has revealed to us a God to whom we can turn at all times and never in vain. . . . I do not know what we would have done without this help, as my mother has been bedridden since 1914, which obliges me to work at home so that I can earn very little."

"I want to express to you and the War Relief Fund my profound gratitude for the help you extended to me in my distress. This aid has opened to me a new spiritual life which I wish to understand better and to follow. Thank you with all my heart for having shown me this life-giving truth."

"It is with a heart full of gratitude that I offer my thanks to you in this letter. . . . I dare not think what would have become of me during these hard times with my poor means of subsistence. . . . On Saturday you brought me the sum of 150 francs from your fund to make provision of coal for the winter. . . . Thanks also for Le Héraut and above all, thanks for the textbook by Mrs. Eddy. This book is truly spiritual food for all my family."

"The aid which I particularly have received from the War Relief Committee has been a great help and encouragement to me during the trying period we have been passing through. Eighteen months ago I was utterly ignorant of Christian Science. I owe to it my physical and moral restoration. It gave me health and strength on my hospital bed where death awaited me in August, 1916. Through it I now desire to live. It is sustaining me today in every difficult problem.

"Therefore, it is with all my heart that I desire to contribute to this work which has become dear to me through having received so many of its benefits."

ITALY

It was largely through the initiative of Christian Scientists in Florence that a War Relief Committee was organized in Italy after the entry of that country into the world struggle.

The Christian Science Society of Florence holds its services and maintains a Reading Room in a substantial building on the Via Della Spada just across the street from the famous Strozzi palace. On the third

Christian Science War Relief Room, Lawton, Oklahoma

War Relief Room, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Two views of the Rooms at Norfolk, Virginia

floor were the headquarters for the Committee administering the War Relief Fund for Italy. The well-organized group of Christian Scientists carefully investigated hundreds of cases of destitution and misery in Rome, Florence, Genoa, Turin, Sienna and Sarzana and distributed money and comforts with much care and discrimination. On a single afternoon at headquarters in Florence as many as fifty cases were helped, each one of which had been the subject of careful consideration and investigation.

A glimpse of the tireless group that eagerly awaited their turn outside the disbursing office in Florence, through long hours on one hot September afternoon when a visitor was present, would have satisfied every contributor to the fund that the help was needed in Italy. Old men and women, young soldiers' widows with tiny babes, whose pensions, pitifully meager at the best, had not even as yet been allotted, discharged soldiers who had contracted diseases in the army, mothers of large families seeking even trifling aid, were each in turn seen and comforted and sent away rejoicing, giving voluble expressions of gratitude.

Knowing the characteristics of the Italian people, and desiring, too, to make The Mother Church Fund furnish true aid, the Committee purchased quantities of wool which it distributed to the poor to be knitted into socks and paid one lira a pair to the knitter. The socks were then sent to the soldiers of the Italian army and elicited among others the following letter:

"The Officers of the Edolo Battalion 5th Alpines, in the name of the brave Alpines.

"We heartily thank you for the most useful and most

welcome twenty-five pairs of socks, mountain hoods, and knee protectors. The good that you kind ladies do is inestimable.

"When our soldiers feel that they are thought of by those at home, sacrifice becomes nothing to them and danger is faced with strong and calm hearts."

In another instance the Committee purchased a sewing machine for some women refugees, who wrote:

"We refugees of Sandona di Piave, Venezia, having been forced to give up our dear land to the barbarous enemy, and finding ourselves in need, feel it is our duty to extend to this honorable Committee our hearty thanks, having received money to buy a sewing machine with which to earn our living.

"Thanking once more this honorable Committee for the good and comfortable position in which they have put us, we remain, yours ever gratefully."

Again it was an Italian officer who said:

"In my name and in the name of my soldiers, I send to you Madam, and to the Christian Science Society, our heartiest thanks for what you have so generously sent to my soldiers.

"I say generously because the woolen underwear which was in abundance was so gratefully accepted. The games, too, were a kind thought, so that the soldiers, when the enemy permit, may be distracted and pass the long hours in the trenches less monotonously. . . .

"With great faith in victory—hurrah for the Allies, hurrah for America."

Surely the fund did a good work when it helped this little Italian schoolboy, who wrote:

"I can't help sending you a few words to thank you for the good you have done for me and my dear mother. I thank you for the shoes, for the house rent, and for paying for my schooling. I promise you to study in order to be a comfort to my poor parents. Forgive my bad writing and with respects, yours very truly."

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA

The minister of an Evangelical Church on the island of Elba was sent a sum of money by the Committee to be used among the needy members of his congregation. Of two families who were helped through the fund he writes:

"In closing this letter of gratitude allow me to refer to some blessings that have come to two of the above-mentioned families. A little grandson of C. fell ill and the doctor pronounced it a case of typhoid fever. The child is a pupil in the fourth class of the Evangelical School. When I went to see him, I found all the family in the utmost despair thinking the child was as good as dead. I spoke boldly of the power of faith and said how absurd it was to think a young boy should have to die. I called to mind the miracles of Jesus and assured them the child would not die. Thanks be to God, he recovered.

"In the family P., the head of the house, a soldier at the front, was wounded in the body by a shell. His sisters had not the courage to tell their old mother, though all the town knew about it. I went to tell her so that her faith might be awakened before she heard the sad news. We all realized the young man would be saved. God has surely restored him to life. Now he is again at the front and is expected home for the winter leave.

"The light of faith and of life has been lacking in the world. Hence war and death. But Life triumphs over death."

It is to be noted that the Italian woman, whose grateful letter follows, is anxious to learn English so that she may read about Christian Science.

"I feel very sorry that I cannot speak and understand English. However, I hope to learn some day and with the language I shall learn so many good things which I need. My husband tries to study English in order to understand the treasures contained in those little books that you gave him. They are his companions and consolation in his forced and temporary exile. (He is a soldier.) . . . Christian Sci-

ence seems part of his life. And here, Signora, allow me to thank you heartily for the help given to me in money, rent and clothing. I wish I could thank all the Americans who have liberated my children, my husband and myself from the tremendous weight of woe which was upon us.

"All these troubles are forgotten, thanks to you, and to the good friends, I dare say brothers, Scientists of the world. Accept, Signora, my feelings of gratitude and reverence."

FRANCE

The War Relief Fund of The Mother Church as established in the fall of 1914, was primarily intended to assist Christian Scientists and to help them over a period of temporary financial stress until they should again be able to help themselves. As the love which prompted this offer of assistance was the real substance of the aid extended, it cast out the fear of those in need. Consequently Christian Scientists were, in most cases, soon able to dispense with all financial aid from the fund, hence in the Sentinel of December 5, 1914, the Treasurer of The Mother Church announced that sufficient money was then in hand to meet the needs of Christian Scientists, at the same time asking for further contributions for the relief of non-Scientists who were suffering from the privations entailed by the war.

In France a Committee had been organized jointly from the two churches in Paris for the administration of "The Mother Church Relief Fund." It now joyously accepted the privilege of extending help to non-Scientists as well as to Scientists. It soon became evident, however, that to let it be generally known that such a fund existed would bring an overwhelming number of appeals for assistance, for at this time the

On the porch at Camp Jackson

Interior of House, Camp Jackson, South Carolina

soldiers' wives in France were receiving only twenty-five cents a day for adults and ten cents for each child, and this class of the needy would very soon have swallowed up the fund. Therefore, the Committee endeavored to find out the *misères cachées,* those who had no means whatever and who were often of the educated classes whose natural delicacy debarred them from making their needs known.

Scores of interesting cases could be cited, where the fund came to the assistance of persons in distress and helped them over a trying period. Many artists who found themselves suddenly stranded were aided. A well-known Paris artist brought to the attention of the Committee a number of such persons whose condition was really pitiable. Two Americans, for instance, were enabled to return to their home when they found themselves without means of livelihood in France. Another who was in the depths of discouragement and poverty was given assistance from the fund, held an exhibition of his pictures and found a ready sale for his work from that time on.

To teachers, students and professors who were deprived of their employment by the outbreak of the war much needed help was given.

Cooperating with a Protestant clergyman the Committee was able to extend aid to a number of Protestant families who were in dire need.

A little Paris street urchin who was trying to support a younger sister, and who was literally without a cent, was taken in overnight by one member of the Committee, aided financially by the fund and helped to secure a position.

An American nurse who had married a French

soldier was delighted by the complete layette provided for her baby by the War Relief Fund.

A young Jewish woman from Algiers, with a blind husband and a large family of children, was given much needed assistance.

Some Russian ladies whose home in Rheims had been destroyed by bombardment, were most grateful for financial help.

A Finn whose demands upon the fund were exorbitant and unreasonable, was healed and later frankly acknowledged the help received and secured a good position. Another Finn was given enough money to take him to Switzerland, where he worked among the prisoners of war.

An Austrian in an internment camp wrote to the Committee for a copy of Science and Health in the German translation. One was sent him through the fund and when last heard from he was conducting Christian Science services in that camp.

An old German couple who loved France and had made it their home for some thirty years, were recommended to the Committee as worthy of assistance. Financial aid was given them and they both became interested in Christian Science and were loaned a copy of the textbook. The Committee gave them small sums to buy little additional necessities and they were later returned to Germany. Such was their love for Christian Science that they said their only joy would be to find some Scientists in Germany. Through the Red Cross they sent word that they had found friends among the Scientists who were caring for them.

One Spanish family looked up by the Committee were found literally starving; they had no bedding,

no furniture, no fire, though the weather was severe, and but one broken cup. The husband was a copper-plate engraver before the war and had been brought to this state of destitution because he had had no work. His family was helped until a position was secured for him.

One might mention also cases of Poles, Swedes, Italians and Armenians who had help from the fund which indeed literally fulfilled the words on page 13 of Science and Health, "Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and bestowals."

The sculptress of whom mention was previously made was a Christian Scientist. Finding that there was no market for the products of her art, she turned her energy to toy making. With some slight assistance from the fund, she began to make dolls. Their originality proved so successful and attractive that they soon made a place for themselves in the large shops in Paris as well as abroad. The demand grew so rapidly that the sculptress was forced to employ someone to assist her and was eventually able to give work to as many as eleven women. Thus did the seed sown on good soil spring up and bring forth fruit an hundredfold.

In many cases the desire was expressed to know something of that which was affording such help and eventually some became earnest students of Christian Science.

The work was carried on along these lines, helping individuals of all nationalities and of all sects and denominations, until the beginning of 1917 when it was found that the fund could be made to flow through broader channels so as to help in relieving

the distress in the regions of France which had been invaded and which were being gradually liberated by the advance of the Allies.

During the year of 1917, ninety-two individual cases, of which thirty-six were Christian Scientists, were helped and it was decided to extend help also to the liberated districts in which the returning inhabitants were in the utmost need. The circular letter which follows was sent to the authorities of these regions.

"THE MOTHER CHURCH WAR RELIEF FUND

"(The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts)

"From the Office of the Paris Committee

"To the Mayor:

"We have the honor of calling to your attention a fund known as 'The Mother Church War Relief Fund,' created by the gifts of Christian Scientists in the United States and other parts of the world for the purpose of helping war sufferers. Contributions already made by Christian Scientists to this Fund exceed a million and a half francs.

"The Paris Committee responsible for the distribution of that portion of the fund allotted to France has been established since the early months of the war and has already distributed a substantial sum in relieving suffering in this country.

"The use of the fund is not confined to any particular sect but extends to all sufferers regardless of religion or other distinction and the Paris Committee would be glad to extend its benefits to sufferers in your Commune if such help would be acceptable.

"As access to your Commune by civilians is practically impossible, we are not in a position to get in touch with the

cases most worthy of help as we have elsewhere. The Committee would therefore be very glad to consider applications sent to them, through you or any other authority, with regard to individual cases needing assistance. Applications may also be sent through any local Committee or organization that is working to help war sufferers in your Commune. Each application should be accompanied by a few details as to the present financial circumstances and need.

"May I add that the details of any application that you may desire to submit to us will be treated confidentially and considered in the most kindly spirit.

"We beg to remain,

"Very sincerely yours,

"PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE."

This letter was sent to 159 Prefects, Senators, Deputies and Mayors in the departments of the Pas de Calais, Nord, Somme, Oise, Aisne and Marne and called forth a very general and enthusiastic response. At the request of the Deputy of St. Quentin members of our Committee were able to visit some portions of the devastated districts of the Aisne in order to have some adequate concept of the havoc wrought and of the present need of the inhabitants. The condition of one village will give a specific idea of what they found. Beauvois had before the war a population of between 7000 and 8000 people. An expert's examination showed that in the whole town there were only twelve buildings capable of being repaired. The result was that there was no civil population left. As soon, however, as they were repatriated the inhabitants of these desolate villages would make their way back to what was formerly their home and the Mayors and Deputies would endeavor to find means to provide them with shelter and food.

The Mayor of Moy, for example, applied to the Committee to help twenty-five necessitous cases from his village. The whole village had been razed to the ground and the inhabitants were being repatriated by way of Switzerland. There was no one to help them except the Mayor. He had exhausted all of his personal resources, and came to our Committee at a moment when he was in despair at not being able to meet the very pressing need of a number of families. The Committee aided the twenty-five families with sums averaging from 50 to 100 francs ($10 to $20) per family. This was in August, 1917, and similar help was given in December of that year.

Another particularly interesting case was that presented to the Committee by the Mayor of Orchies, Département du Nord.

"Dear Sir:

"I have the honor to acknowledge your favor of July 14. I am tremendously grateful for the interest you are kind enough to take in my unfortunate fellow citizens. Our city, almost completely burned by the Germans on September 25, 1914, is still in their hands.

"I correspond at present with 450 soldiers, 125 prisoners and 350 civilians. At first I was able to send help to the mobilized men and to the prisoners; but the modest resources which I had at my disposal were soon exhausted and public charity solicited on every side, could do no more for my poor citizens.

"I call your kind attention especially to the Prisoners of Orchies. These unfortunate men cannot receive anything from their families, for most of them are still in the invaded districts. The prisoners, therefore, are entirely destitute and to my great regret, it is impossible for me to reply to their urgent appeals.

"This is why I should be very grateful to you if you could

help them a little. If you wish I can send you a list of the prisoners.

"I alone take care of the inhabitants of Orchies, whether mobilized, prisoners, or repatriated, and it would be a great relief and a profound satisfaction to me if their condition could be somewhat relieved.

"Thanking you in advance for whatever you may be kind enough to do for them, and in this hope, I beg you to accept the assurance of my highest esteem."

The answer to this appeal is appended as it shows the method adopted by the *Comité Français* in dealing with such cases.

"Monsieur le Maire:

"Our Committee has received your letter of July 31, in which you inform us of the needs of the people of Orchies and they are pleased to write you that they desire to divide the sum of 1500 francs among the most needy cases.

"Be so kind, then, as to send the names and present addresses of those whose needs you consider the most urgent, adding some data as to their actual condition, and please suggest the amount you think advisable to give in each case. As soon as we receive this list we shall be glad to send the money orders.

"Very sincerely yours,

"PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE."

From one of the recipients of this aid, a prisoner of war, came the following note, which is typical of many others.

"Friedericksfeld, December 2, 1917.

"Mademoiselle:

"I have received the money order for 12.50 francs which you had the kindness to send me at the request of the Mayor of Orchies. This money will be most useful to me and I am very grateful to have it.

"Sincerely yours,"

During a hard winter, the Committee was able to provide about 1200 refugee children in Amiens with warm clothing at a cost of 25,000 francs, and it also gave substantial grants to the various *Foyers du Soldat* in France. These *Foyers* correspond to our Y. M. C. A. huts and have been of immense help and comfort to the French Poilus since their establishment. A large building in the center of Amiens had been equipped to reeducate mutilated soldiers and fit them to earn their own living. It was found that it cost 800 francs per person to complete this education. Our Committee felt it right to encourage this work by taking upon itself the education of five new cases. In addition, money to supply an artificial leg was sent to a young mason, who had been wounded in the battle of the Marne. He was taken prisoner by the Germans, and after having his leg amputated was sent back to France. Here, on his own initiative, he studied and attended university classes and qualified as a public school teacher.

Hundreds of individuals whose names were submitted to our Committee through their Mayor or Prefect, or through some relief society, received aid. With touching gratitude the recipients would state in their letters of acknowledgment that the money had been used to buy shoes for children who had been forced to go barefoot; to purchase furniture for those who had been sleeping on straw; to procure a woolen blanket as a protection against the rigors of winter; to clothe destitute families; to provide comforts for a sick mother; to send a package to a father, a prisoner of war in Germany; to replace farming implements

destroyed by the invader; to eke out an income which was supporting ten persons, and so on indefinitely.

This brings us in our story to the eventful year 1918, when the Paris churches asked The Mother Church to send workers to meet the growing number of calls for help from the Americans who were coming overseas, and also to help organize more efficient relief in the terribly desolated and devastated districts of France.

Early in the year a delegate was sent over by The Mother Church to investigate conditions and to make a report to the Directors as to the best way of cooperating with the War Relief Committee already operating in Paris, in order to help both the American troops and the refugees. The visit of this representative, accompanied by a worker who remained permanently in France, strengthened and helped the Paris workers at a most difficult time. Immediately upon his return ten workers were sent to France by the Christian Science Board of Directors of The Mother Church. They arrived in Paris during one of the most critical periods of the war, when the city was being bombarded by day by "Big Bertha" and by night by the German "Gothas," which visited the city as often as five times in one week. The Germans were also advancing so rapidly on Paris that it was felt that something should be done at once to enable the congregations of both the Paris churches to leave the city if they so desired.

The Manager of the War Relief Committee met the *Comité Français* and they discussed the question fully, with the result that 5000 francs were immediately advanced to each church to be used by the

members in case of need, which money was to be accounted for by the respective members of the Committee.

Some forty families were helped by this fund and it was indeed a very vital thing to them to be able to put their children in safety outside of Paris or to feel that they had by them a sum of money sufficient to cover the expense of leaving Paris if it became urgently necessary to do so. In not a few cases the people who had been granted this money returned the same to the Committee as they felt so certain a sense of divine protection that they remained in Paris in spite of seemingly desperate conditions.

During 1918 some 100 individual cases were helped, of which 48 were Scientists.

The coming to France of the War Relief Workers opened new channels by which help could be extended to war sufferers. These workers were established at Bordeaux, Brest, Tours, St. Nazaire, Langres, Nevers, Nantes, Le Mans and Romorantin, and all were asked to send particulars to the *Comité Français* of cases needing help.

A letter to the Mayor of each of these cities setting forth in some detail the objects and aims of the fund and the work already accomplished by it, was delivered by our representative in person, together with a check for the relief of war sufferers in each of these districts. The amounts delivered to the various agencies aggregated 40,000 francs.

In every case the War Relief Worker was most courteously received by the Mayor of the town. In Le Mans particularly our Worker reports:

"The Mayor seemed appreciative and keenly sensitive to the relationship established between his office and this Depot through this gift. He controlled his emotions with some difficulty, his eyes filled with tears and his feelings seemed to be deeply moved."

Such a careful survey of the needs of the town was made by the Mayor and so much good work was accomplished that the Committee felt it right to grant an additional 2500 francs to this Depot.

That the motive animating our relief work was understood in some measure is evident from the following, which appeared in a newspaper of November 10, 1918, called L'Aisne.

"It is not by almsgiving in the name of their religion so widely spread in America, that they seek to aid the victims of the war. It is rather by placing in each man's hand an instrument by which he can overcome evil and so eventually efface all trace of calamity, including war.

"Is there any more beautiful religion than the overcoming of evil? Science, allied with this noble idea of Christianity, which for centuries has taken root in the world, becomes a means of uplifting the individual and his family both materially and morally.

"The wounds to be healed are innumerable. Universal brotherhood which is the basis of the doctrine of Christian Science finds its work here. The motive of the Christian Science War Relief Fund is to put into the hands of persons in distress the means of re-creating by their own efforts an independent position."

From June, 1918, onwards, the work of the *Comité Français* has tended more and more towards helping the inhabitants of the devastated regions. The swift advance, followed by the swifter retreat of the Ger-

mans, created the most difficult and distressing conditions for the civil population and there was practically no preparation to meet these conditions. Therefore, it was deemed right to send all the help possible into these areas.

This the Committee did in many instances by giving a lump sum for the use of a particular town or region, this sum to be distributed by trustworthy channels such as the *Comité de l'Aisne,* and the *Comité Lyon-St.-Quentin,* to whom the sum of 25,000 and 5000 francs were given respectively, at a time of great stress.

After the German retreat the sum of 30,000 francs was given to the city of St. Quentin and to a region west of this place which had been practically destroyed in the recent fighting, and out of this money, among other things, twenty sewing machines were purchased and placed in various centers. They were known as the "Village Machines" and were used in turn by all the inhabitants. The sum of 30,000 francs was also sent to the village of Wavrin, some ten miles south of Lille. This village, which before the war had 5000 inhabitants, all of them superior mechanics, was occupied by the Germans for four years, and in October, 1918, all the inhabitants were evacuated and sent into Belgium. The Germans then put a bomb in each house, and on leaving the town blew them all up. The inhabitants returned on foot from Belgium towards the end of December, a few at a time, and when the chairman of the *Comité Français* visited the place on December 20, some 2100 people were camping in the ruins, without beds or bedding. The French authorities were able to send only a consignment of food to keep them from

starving and the money sent by the *Comité Français* provided for a substantial distribution of bedding, blankets, warm clothing and boots.

When permission was secured from the French Government to ship consignments of clothing made by the Comforts Forwarding Committees in the United States much joy was felt in France. Five shipments have been sent, a total of 558 cases, containing clothing and comforts of various kinds. It may be of interest to state that among the garments included were bathrobes, shirts, vests, blouses, suits, trousers, for men and boys; chemises, nightgowns, drawers, petticoats, stockings, union suits, dresses, skirts, bonnets, aprons for women and girls; babies' layettes with blankets, bootees, capes, caps, nightdresses, petticoats, sacks, shirts, stockings, diapers, bibs and afghans. Knitted articles including helmets, mittens, shawls, socks, sweaters, caps, wristers, trench caps and many bolts of flannel to be made into new garments were also forwarded in large quantities. We can probably realize only faintly the comfort which such shipments have brought to inhabitants returning to such desolate places as Arras, Bapaume, Béthune, Loos, Lens, etc.

The distribution of the first shipment was made by the wife of one of the French deputies in the department of the Aisne, who exercised the greatest care and wisdom in giving the articles to those who were most needy. The second lot went to the department of the Nord, and the third and fourth to Arras.

The work of the French Committee will continue until no further need of its services is apparent.

Of the fruit of its work it is heartening to think in the words of one of our hymns:

"No act falls fruitless; none can tell
How vast its pow'r may be;
Nor what results enfolded dwell
Within it silently."

—*Christian Science Hymnal.*

III

HELPING HALIFAX

On Thursday, December 6, 1917, the people of Halifax appealed to the world for help in their distress caused by the collision of two steamers, the *Mont Blanc* and the *Imo,* and the resulting explosion and fire. Immediately the Christian Science organization responded. The Christian Science Board of Directors of The Mother Church appointed a committee of five members to proceed to Halifax with relief. Obstacles such as storm, limitation of time, and lack of transportation at once presented themselves. No through train was available on Saturday when the Committee was to leave; therefore the Board of Directors authorized arrangements with the Boston & Maine Railroad to finance a special train from Bangor to Halifax. Large supplies of clothing were quickly gathered and placed on the train, and at 7.30 p.m., Saturday, December 8, the Committee left Boston in a terrific snowstorm, "to go," as one member said with uplifted thought, "not to a city of disaster, but to a city whose builder and maker is God, a city of harmony, in the ever-present kingdom of heaven."

About thirty people besides the Christian Science party made up the passenger list on the special train. There were doctors, nurses, newspaper reporters, and those bound for Halifax who were seeking out relatives. These were grateful indeed for the opportunity

which had so unexpectedly opened for them to reach Halifax twenty-four hours sooner than otherwise would have been possible. The privilege of sending goods to Halifax was extended to those along the route of travel.

The journey was happy and harmonious. One man on the train testified that he had eaten his first normal breakfast in ten years that Sunday morning and felt no distress. He attributed this healing to the helpful association with Christian Scientists, and listened with marked interest to explanations of Christian Science.

Ours was the third relief train to start for Halifax. At St. John, New Brunswick, the Committee was met by a delegation of about twenty-five Scientists, who were eager to extend any aid possible. They offered to forward oil stoves and food if there were need of them, and a small number were ready to join the party immediately if necessary.

Both of the previous trains were held up at Truro, sixty miles from Halifax, one for half a day, and the other for five hours, and trainmen prophesied that this would prove a similar case. As when in the preceding hours obstacles of storm and lack were overcome, so now, thought was uplifted to perceive the freedom of the Sons of God and to know that there could be no delay in Mind's activity. The train remained in Truro but ten minutes. An inspector boarded the train and during his conversation said that the delegation could get no nearer the city than the five-mile limit. Again God's power was relied upon, and the following morning, Monday, December 10, upon rising the Committee found themselves in the heart of the city, their train having been the

first to pass under a badly burned bridge and through the devastated region.

In the cold gray of the morning they went forth, with but little knowledge of the conditions, destruction meeting the eye at every turn; nevertheless the inspiration of Love, of God's ever-presence, so filled their thought that radiant smiles and boundless energy for work were manifested.

The party left the train about seven o'clock and proceeded to the hotel, where they were met by a member of the Halifax church, who gratefully reported that all the Christian Scientists were safe. The goods brought by the Committee were taken to the Masonic Hall, the central relief station for the distribution of all clothing and were immediately distributed to the destitute people who awaited relief. The Christian Science literature they had carried was taken to the Immigration Office from whence it was distributed to hotels, news stands, churches, and the Y. M. C. A. All were eager to receive it, especially the Monitors, as no newspapers had entered Halifax since the morning of the catastrophe.

During their stay our party worked with the general committee at the Masonic Hall in distributing clothing to those who had lost all they possessed. When there came a shortage of particular articles of clothing, some member of the Committee would go to local stores and buy these goods. At other times they took to the stores those individuals who needed special garments and were unable to obtain correct sizes or kinds from the miscellaneous supplies at the relief station. Again, when there appeared a lack of supplies to fill rush orders for the refugees, someone on the Committee completed the order by purchasing the

needed articles at local stores. The ready cash at hand was thus utilized to best advantage at these particular crises.

In the meantime, in Boston, arrangements were made for special collections in The Mother Church, and also in many of the branch churches in other cities, and the Comforts Forwarding Committee prepared to gather clothing and supplies. Many individuals, learning of the need, sent donations. The following are examples of the many messages received:

"I enclose a check for fifty dollars as a contribution for the Halifax Relief Fund. I see by the Monitor that the need is still great, and am grateful to have the chance to share a small amount with those in need."

"I enclose one dollar for the Halifax Relief Fund. It is very small, but I wanted to add this to the collection taken Sunday, for which I was not prepared. I am so grateful to the Directors of The Mother Church for their beautiful and generous response to the cry for help from Halifax. It is an inspiration for me to work better."

The Christian Science Board of Directors wired the Relief Committee that they would supply a fully equipped field kitchen, with four men, and also food if needed. In view of the improved conditions, this offer could not be accepted, but the chairmen of the different committees in Halifax expressed their deep appreciation for the offer. On every side the Christian Science Committee heard words of commendation for their own work and for the generosity of the Christian Science Church.

One of the prominent committee chairmen said to two members, and later to a third member of the

Christian Science Committee: "I have never witnessed such a manifestation of true Christianity in my life. In the past I have always spoken against Christian Science, but I have done it for the last time." An extract from his letter, written upon the return of the Committee to Boston, is interesting:

"There is one outstanding feature in connection with the whole affair, and that is the promptitude with which the people of Boston and Massachusetts in general came to our assistance. . . . No words of mine can express to you, your party, and your Church, the thanks of Halifax for the promptness with which you arrived on the scene, the goods you brought with you, and last but not least, the sympathy you showed and the willingness with which you undertook any work that came first to your hand."

A physician of Greater Boston, who was in Halifax on relief work, in a letter to the Committee on its return to Boston, wrote the following:

"Your whole committee proved their worth many times over, by their ever-readiness to do the most menial tasks, and to give aid to everyone who was in need, and indeed there were many. May I thank you again for the courtesy you showed us, and accept this as an appreciation of the altruistic attitude of your Committee as a whole."

The coming of the Committee clearly brought joy and inspiration to the Christian Scientists of Halifax. After the explosion took place, many were depressed, and were glad to receive this comforting aid. Many told of the uplift of thought which came to them when they received word of what the Directors of The Mother Church had planned. The Wednesday evening meeting was one never to be forgotten. Expression after expression of gratitude was given for the

protection received by the individuals through their understanding of the teachings of Christian Science. Out of a congregation of about eighty people, only one had been injured physically, and that one only slightly. All who spoke expressed deepest thanks to the Board of Directors for the loving thought which prompted them to send aid through the Committee. It seemed at this meeting as if all present opened their hearts and gave full vent to the love and gratitude they felt: gratitude to God, to Christ Jesus, the Wayshower, to our beloved Leader, Mrs. Eddy, to the Board of Directors of The Mother Church, and to the Relief Committee. Those present will never forget the wonderful inspiration received and the love and gratitude expressed by all.

At the conclusion of the regular meeting, the members of the church congregated in an adjoining room. They were told by our Committee of the money ready for their use in restoring the church edifice and in aiding the members and others who were in need.

A Committee was appointed by the Directors of The Mother Church in Boston, consisting of Christian Scientists of Halifax, to whom was given authority to expend the funds donated by the Christian Science field. The relief afforded by the funds was not limited to any religious creed. The Committee cooperated with the existing relief organizations and social workers, in order that their work might not overlap the activity of the others. Certain cases which the public funds could not properly and fully relieve were the special care of the Committee. Appropriate memoranda were kept, forming a basis for the investigation of each claim brought to the attention of the Committee by the Halifax Commission.

Interior, Camp Sheridan

Building erected near Camp Sheridan, Alabama

Christian Science Headquarters, Camp Bowie, Texas

The boys building the Workers' Cottage at Camp Lewis, Washington

From the very start, the work was done quietly and effectively. First, the Christian Science Church structure was repaired, and no claim was presented to the city or to their Commission for damages to the church property. Next, those members of the church who had suffered damages to their homes were reimbursed. Then individual cases of great need were investigated and helped. Donations were made to various organizations which were engaged in helping the sufferers: the Y. M. C. A., Community Hall, Protestant Orphans' Home, Halifax Playgrounds Commission, Halifax Welfare Bureau, the Jost Mission under Methodist Auspices, Bureau of Social Service, Y. W. C. A. and the Old Ladies' Home. Braille Christian Science literature was provided for the blind. A number of one-year subscriptions to the Monitor were placed in hotels, the Naval Y. M. C. A., and given to some prominent social workers. Lastly, the Committee, in agreement with the Board of Directors of The Mother Church, established a downtown reading room, in order to reach the public in a more direct way than the former reading room in the church structure could do. Here was a great opportunity to reach soldiers, sailors, and refugees from the devastated region, and the establishment of the reading room could truly aid the situation created by the explosion. As the Committee had gone a long way toward helping along material lines, they felt that now there should be an opportunity to make Christian Science felt locally through its literature and periodicals. The Christian Science Church in Halifax aided in the support of this downtown reading room. The amounts expended by the Committee are given elsewhere.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE IN THE WAR

The following are excerpts from a few of the many letters of appreciation for the aid rendered through the Christian Science Halifax Relief Committee:

"I wish to acknowledge with grateful appreciation the receipt of your generous check of $25 for the benefit of the girls who lost their sight in the explosion. I regret that you can only enjoy a reflection of the pleasure it has given me to supply them with a comfortable chair for use in the morning."

"On behalf of the Committee of Management of the Old Ladies' Home, I thank you for the kind gift of one hundred dollars towards the equipment of our kitchenette, and fifty dollars towards the support and comfort of Mrs. X."

"I want to thank you most warmly for the way in which you have helped me in my recent illness. I received your checks weekly, and found them most acceptable. I am so glad to be able to go to work again."

"Enclosed please find receipted bill for $50, generously given to Mrs. B by your committee for her board and care. Will you allow me to express our thanks and appreciation to the givers for their wish to help one who has suffered severely because of the explosion. I telephoned my personal thanks for the $25 you sent me. This note gives me an extra chance to say 'Thank you' many times for your most unexpected gift to one who certainly has been in no uncertain way a victim of the terrible disaster of December 6th, in material things. In closing, I would like to add that I appreciate more than all the kindly way you listened to my tale of woe in behalf of a few of the sufferers of the disaster. The thought of burdens lightened may well give to all those who have given so largely in dollars for relief, the rest that comes each night with the knowledge that someone, somewhere, is the better for our giving and doing."

HELPING HALIFAX

"Owing to the pressure of work involved in the removal of the old ladies back to their home, the Committee of Management has not been able to hold its regular monthly meeting, but I cannot longer refrain from acknowledging the most kind and exceedingly welcome gift of your Committee. The old ladies have lost so many things dear to them from old associations, as well as much that was useful, and have been so brave, cheerful, and courageous all through, that we are rejoiced to be able, through your munificent and most thoughtful gift, to make up to them their personal losses. With sincerest thanks to your Committee and yourself for this further kindness."

"Permit me to thank you for your letter and a cheque for $1000 which I received this morning to be applied to the Playground work on the Exhibition Grounds and Commons. I shall bring this matter before the Playground Association at an early date and they will, I know, express their thanks to you. . . . It is a most generous gift and I know will bring large returns in the development of character of the children who have been stricken in the Halifax disaster."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE IN THE WAR

NEWSPAPER COMMENT ON HALIFAX EXPEDITION

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS DO RELIEF WORK

Nonpareil, Council Bluffs, Iowa, December 17, 1917

Editor Nonpareil:—Splendid work was done by the Christian Scientists of Boston in rushing aid to the stricken city of Halifax. Finding no through train from Boston available on Saturday, the day of the recent disaster in that city, representatives of the church arranged for a special train which left Boston in a storm, but outran it, and speeded northward carrying aid to the Halifax sufferers in the shape of clothing and supplies as well as $10,000 in cash and letters of credit.

When it became known in Boston that this special train had been arranged for, other relief workers asked permission to take passage on it, which was readily granted and thirty or forty Red Cross workers and physicians with supplies accompanied the Scientists.

A collection taken Sunday in The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston amounted to $4693.04. There was no time to give notice in advance of this collection. Collections were also arranged by many of the branch churches, which have not yet been reported.

Post, Chicago, Illinois, December 13, 1917

Boston, December 13.—The presence of doctors and nurses on board a Christian Science special seems a strange contradiction. Yet it happened on the relief train sent by the Christian Science Board of Directors here to the immediate succor of Halifax. It became known today that the Directors chartered a special in order to rush thru $10,000 contributed in cash and thousands of dollars' worth of food and warm clothing. As the train was being made up, city

hall officials telephoned that a number of physicians, surgeons and trained nurses wished to make the trip, and found that it was practically impossible. They, therefore, asked permission to go on the Christian Science special. Permission was instantly granted and some forty doctors and their assistants rode to Halifax in company with the Christian Scientists.

Daily Times Journal, Fort William, Ontario, Canada,
December 19, 1917

The Christian Scientists of Boston, Mass., magnificently came to the assistance of the stricken people of Halifax, when they sent a special train from the Massachusetts capital bearing relief of all kinds in clothing, provisions and supplies for the suffering, homeless and destitute.

The train was met at St. John by a committee of prominent business men. Accompanying this splendid donation was the sum of $10,000 in cash. Hearing of the departure of the relief special, thirty or forty Red Cross officials asked permission to accompany the train, and leave was willingly granted. It was an unusual spectacle—a train of relief from the mother Christian Scientist church in Boston, with leading church officials in charge, and Red Cross officers with them, all bent on the one errand of mercy—the relief of suffering. A collection taken in the mother Christian Science church in Boston last Sunday for the Halifax relief fund, in answer to an appeal, elicited the splendid response of $4693.14. Special appeals were made in Port Arthur last Sunday in the Christian Science church, and when the returns are all in it is expected that $50 will be forthcoming from this small coterie of generous people.

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, South Dakota,
December 18, 1917

Sorrow and suffering are often the mellowing influence required to drive the steel from the hearts of men. With all

its horror and terrific toll, the world war brings its good, its softer tones and better aims.

When the explosion occurred at Halifax with its tremendous loss of life and havoc wrought about the city, the Christian Science society at Boston jumped into the breach with practical aid.

Its directors chartered a special train to Halifax, took along $10,000 in cash raised from their members, and loaded it down with clothing, food and necessary supplies. The Red Cross and some charitable organizations had desired to take the same steps but were unable to secure transportation. They asked permission of the Christian Scientists to ship aboard their special and it was promptly granted.

This train impelled by love and helpfulness, the right thing at the right time, rushed on to Halifax with Christian Scientists and doctors rubbing elbows. Each aimed at the same goal, each was on a mission of mercy, inspired by love of God to help their fellow man who needed aid.

'Tis said that sorrow makes us all akin. Each is created in the image of Divinity and controlled by one Intelligence.

Do soldiers in the trenches stop to question by what faith their comrades seek to enter heaven? When facing death do they inquire the church to which the other fellow belongs? They only know that he is one of them—their fellow man.

And with the war comes tolerance of other men's ideals, the love that grows from common cause. With back to wall, with heads held high in righteousness, we all must face the foe that threatens liberty.

News Tribune, Duluth, Minnesota, December 20, 1917

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

Catastrophe, as well as war and politics, makes strange bedfellows. But nothing stranger has happened than this. As soon as the wreck of Halifax was flashed to Boston, The Mother Church of Christian Science raised $10,000 in cash,

secured a special train, loaded it with supplies and with the cash and supplies was ready to speed relief to the stricken city.

The officials of Boston, trying to get a special train, found the Scientists were a lap ahead of them, and special trains are not easy to get these days. The Red Cross made a like discovery. Both city and Red Cross hurried to The Mother Church officials.

On schedule time that train pulled away from Boston loaded with the workers, supplies and money of the Church of Christ, Scientist, with doctors and medicines from the city of Boston and with nurses and supplies from the Red Cross.

Where has there been a more splendid sinking of human belief and opinion, of religious and personal prejudice, the forgetting of all revilings and enmities, in the bigger, nobler, holier faith in a common humanity? It recalls the tenth and eleventh Beatitudes,

IV

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CAMP WELFARE COMMITTEE

As the great camp cities, scattered throughout the United States, established for the training of the army-to-be, took form in the summer and early fall of 1917, the necessity of providing for the spiritual welfare of the soldier Scientists already gathered there in considerable numbers began to press for attention.

Exclusion by the War Department of all religious and benevolent organizations excepting the Y. M. C. A. and the Knights of Columbus, a ruling later greatly modified, made the problem at first a rather difficult one. It had been hoped to erect in each camp a Christian Science building capable of accommodating good-sized groups of soldiers during their leisure hours and also of housing one or more Christian Science practitioners whose services would thus be immediately and constantly available. The ruling referred to, however, made this at least temporarily impossible and other means had to be devised.

While these were being sought, the demand from many parts of the country that something be done for the men in camp became increasingly insistent. Christian Scientists traveling in the South called attention to the fact that in many of the camp towns in that section there were few if any Scientists and that no provision was being made for the Science men in the

Christian Science War Relief Building and Workers' Cottage,
Camp Lewis, Washington

Auditorium and Reading Room, Camp Lewis, Washington

Corner of Writing Room, War Relief Building,
Camp Lewis, Washington

army, adding an urgent plea that something be done at once to supply literature, practitioners and, if possible, an assembly room for them. Mothers of boys who had entered the service wrote asking what provision was being made for the spiritual welfare of their sons who would soon be far from the home influence and surrounded by new and strange conditions. Interested friends and relatives added their voices to the growing appeal that steps be taken at once to make Christian Science available to the men in service.

A new note was introduced when groups of churches and societies in the neighborhood of some of the northern camps wrote asking sanction for plans they were considering for establishing and maintaining a purely local activity and this was emphasized when, from the Northwest, came a telegram one day asking approval for a plan to build a Welfare house at Camp Lewis for which several thousand dollars had already been pledged. In fact, in some instances, the demand had seemingly required the taking of steps in advance of any general plan, and both in Northern and Southern California, in San Francisco and San Diego, well-appointed rooms for the exclusive use of soldiers and sailors were in operation, the expense being borne by the churches and societies of the towns and cities adjacent to these centers. Somewhat similar action had been taken by the Scientists of Greater New York and a well-defined local scheme was virtually ready to be put into operation when that of The Mother Church was submitted. Needless to say the New York churches immediately adopted the larger plan, endorsing it enthusiastically at a State Conference of Churches and Societies early in December, 1917. The

church at Battle Creek, Michigan, assisted financially by a number of other Michigan churches, was doing a considerable work at Camp Custer at this time, something like eight hundred Monitors being distributed daily. The Literature Distribution Committee of the Chicago churches was also serving the men at the Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Illinois, and The Mother Church had itself rendered some aid at Camp Devens at Ayer, Massachusetts, and at Camp Lee in Virginia. The Junction City, Kansas, church had also instituted a work at Camp Funston and aided by contributions of literature from the Publication Committee for that State, was doing effective work. Thus from many directions and in differing ways was coming the evidence, accumulating daily, that the Christian Science field was ready, yes, willing, even anxious, to undertake the task.

During this period the Christian Science Board of Directors, mindful of the ruling of the War Department and equally so of the growing need, earnestly sought a solution of the problem thus presented. In November of 1917 the Board appointed a Christian Science Camp Welfare Committee and delegated to it the working out of a suitable plan to accomplish the desired result. The Committee set to work at once, visited several of the large camps, studied the needs carefully and soon developed a plan that gave promise of meeting the requirements of the Christian Science men in the service as well as any others who might be inclined to accept the aid of the Committee and which at the same time met the conditions imposed by the War Department. The basic thought in the plan was, first of all, to render a tireless service to all men in the

army at all times, day or night. This of course was to include physical healing by Christian Science methods, and the supply of Christian Science books and literature to whatever extent might be justified by the circumstances. This service was to be rendered by Camp Workers who would visit the camps daily and remain only as long as their work required. It was hoped that such a service would quickly justify itself and result in official permission for these Workers to live permanently in the camps, in homes provided either by our Committee or the Government itself. The plan also included a definite form of organization whereby the Christian Science Churches and Societies of each state were to appoint a War Relief Committee to supervise the work locally and to act as the link between them and The Mother Church Committee in Boston. To these State Committees the burden of the work was entrusted, as well as much of its responsibility, including the gathering of funds with which to carry it on.

With some minor changes the scheme was adopted by the Board of Directors and a notice was immediately sent by them to the three largest churches in each state advising them of the appointment of the Committee and stating that the Manager of the Committee would be available to explain the plan and assist in the organization of the work in their state if desired.

Through the instant and hearty cooperation of the churches the Manager of the Committee was enabled by the end of January, 1918, to visit and assist in the organization of the work in thirty or more states and in a notably brief space of time work was under way in a considerable number of camps.

Organization continued uninterruptedly until the United States was fully covered and the work in and out of the camps grew rapidly month by month as Christian Scientists learned more of what was being accomplished and of its value. Under this plan the activities reached their highest point in October of 1918. At that time there were employed by the Committee over two hundred men and women distributed throughout the camps, hospitals, barracks and various training centers in the United States and abroad. The record of the work done by these men and women constitutes a story of unwonted activity, of unselfish devotion to duty and one unusually rich with incidents testifying to the efficacy of the service rendered. A detailed history of the work of any one of them would in most cases require a volume larger than this report, though it would be replete with interest throughout.

The rapidity with which the organization of the Camp Welfare Committee was perfected, the unity of thought and action expressed by Scientists everywhere, the astonishing results that immediately and continuously rewarded the ministrations of the Workers in camp and hospital, all testify to the readiness of the Christian Science movement to respond wholeheartedly to every proper call made upon it and give evidence of its efficiency in hours of emergency.

CAMP WELFARE COMMITTEE

IN CAMP AND TRAINING STATION

To give the reader a clear understanding of the plan of organization adopted by the entire Christian Science field and put into operation so promptly, a detailed description of the procedure in a single state will suffice. Virginia may be chosen as typical, because of the varied lines of war activity represented there. Besides the great training camp at Petersburg, named Camp Lee, in honor of that beloved leader of the South, there were five important embarkation camps in the Tide Water District, known as Camps Morrison, Hill, Stuart, Alexander and Eustis. There was also Langley Field, an aviation center, a balloon school, as well as trench mortar and anti-aircraft schools, ammunition train and army supply bases. In the same district was located our greatest naval base. The Grand Fleet lay off Yorktown. Thousands of men were stationed at the navy yard at Norfolk and the big naval hospital at the same place was usually filled. Hampton Roads, Old Point Comfort and the naval operating base opposite were veritable hives of industry. Including both arms of the service there were probably never less than two hundred thousand soldiers and sailors in Virginia during the spring, summer and fall of 1918, to be served by our Committee. To meet adequately the varying needs of these numbers of men was the problem.

With this in mind, representatives of the three largest churches of Virginia met on January 6, 1918, and elected a State Camp Welfare Committee. This election was later ratified by the remaining churches and societies of the state. The Committee at once took

in hand the organization of the large task before them and soon had Workers at Camp Lee, Norfolk, Newport News and Hampton. Rooms were established at these four points and attendants placed in charge. At its maximum the work in Virginia required twelve persons, eight Workers and four Welfare Room attendants. Five automobiles were purchased for the Workers with the land forces and two boats for those who were to serve the forces afloat, and for many months thereafter, members of the Committee had little time for any activity save that connected with the army and navy. The expenditure of large sums of money necessitated great care and thought. Direction of the group of Workers stationed at widely separated points required much time, and the ever-present desire to do more and more each day to extend the work until it should reach every single man and place, no matter how remote, permitted no cessation of activity. A diagram of the Tide Water District is reproduced to aid the reader in forming an idea of the task performed by the Virginia Committee and its corps of Workers. In the section of this chapter devoted to the work in the navy will be found further details.

Unusual features in connection with the early development of the work were to be found in many states. The Massachusetts Committee in caring for the soldiers and sailors in and immediately adjacent to Boston alone, found it necessary to employ three Workers and an assistant. Camp Devens, in the same state, was the first to have a regularly appointed Camp Worker, though volunteer work had previously been done in at least two camps elsewhere. The con-

dition in North and South Carolina was unique, for here one Committee, with its headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina, cared for the work at the numerous points in the two states. Texas, also, with its great size and splendid distances, found a slight departure from the general scheme necessary, and appointing a local Committee of five or more persons at each of the camp towns, brought these under one head by choosing a single individual as Manager of all the Committees in the state, with headquarters in Dallas. This person was a paid Worker and regularly visited the various points of activity in the state, aiding and in a general way directing the work everywhere. The service to men along the Mexican border conducted from El Paso carried the Worker for many miles up and down a desolate and much-neglected part of the army world and for this reason was doubly welcome. The mammoth aviation fields, Kelly I and Kelly II, at San Antonio, presented exceptional opportunities and the men in this branch were most appreciative of our efforts. There were eighteen authorized Workers and assistants under the supervision of the Texas State Manager, and nine automobiles were in constant use. The perfect teamwork of this large force was a source of constant gratitude to all concerned.

Formation of the Tank Corps School at Gettysburg gave Pennsylvania the opportunity to employ its second regular Camp Worker, the first being the naval Worker at Philadelphia. The Ambulance Training School at Allentown, in the same State, was also cared for by an authorized Worker and the needs of Pittsburgh were likewise provided for. The marines

stationed at Quantico, Virginia, and Paris Island, South Carolina, were given special attention at the first point by authorized Workers at Washington, District of Columbia, and at the second by resident Workers. At Paris Island the work was characterized by an especial degree of cordiality exhibited by the officials in charge, and was so greatly appreciated that an effort was made to induce the Committee to establish a permanent representative there.

The service rendered to the submarine fleet at New London, Connecticut, at the naval base at Newport, Rhode Island, and among the ships that visited the harbor at Portland, Maine, was of a somewhat different character from that performed elsewhere, and developed qualities in the Workers which proved them to be versatile as well as willing and tireless.

The Workers in the Quartermasters' Training Camp at Jacksonville, where the shining white sands of the St. John River merged into the deep pine forest of the mainland, as well as those at Key West and Pensacola, proved their efficiency during long seasons of heat and epidemic.

The Wisconsin Committee, although representing a non-cantonment state, rendered a big service to the families and friends of men at the front by securing prompt information as to their conditions and needs.

The work in the spruce camps of Oregon was peculiar to that state. The loggers and lumberjacks felt the hospitality of Christian Science out in the deep woods and their response was immediate and hearty. The Christian Science Monitor was accepted with eagerness and the vest-pocket Song Book with enthusiasm, for under the leadership of our Worker, who

Christian Science War Relief Room near Camp Taylor, Kentucky

Christian Science War Relief Rooms, Des Moines, Iowa

The Rooms in Hoboken, New Jersey

was a musician, these children of the woods learned to love our hymns and to sing them with great feeling.

Virtually every state in the Union maintained a War Relief Committee which carried on its functions in a thoroughly satisfactory manner and the foregoing states have been singled out for special mention only because the work within their borders was somewhat out of the ordinary.

In this general survey, mention may properly be made of hospital work done for soldiers and sailors at points outside of the larger camps and cantonments, sometimes by regular Workers and oftentimes by volunteers. As indicative of the method employed by the men and women who participated in this activity, the following letter, written by one of them in December of 1918, is cited.

"Since my last report many good things have happened. Perhaps the most prominent in my thought is the following: After inoculation with serums a student officer was stricken with sickness. He was mentally deranged, paralyzed in hands and feet, totally blind in one eye and nearly so in the other, and had set the day to die. A friend had recommended Christian Science treatment and had written to me about him. The letter was received after the patient had been in the hospital two days. He was in a ward for the insane. The doctor did not want me to see him but finally consented.

"Our friend listened to what I had to say but was so anxious to have some letters written to settle insurance and business matters, and to make arrangements for his burial, that the best thing I knew to do was to satisfy him. In three days he was going to die and he wanted his worldly affairs attended to. Soon after I began to write for him he was relieved to such an extent that I told him I would not write another line. Reasons for this action were given to which he readily assented. I told him that he had sent for me because I had

something for him which no one around there knew how to give. Others could write his letters and I would proceed to do the good I knew how to do. To this he agreed and what had been written was then torn up. The next half hour was spent in telling him of simple truths he could easily understand.

"Next day I returned. Our friend was tremendously cheered. In civil life he had been a school-teacher and as he could not read now I asked him if he knew 'The Ancient Mariner.' Immediately he began to quote it with spirit and effect. He knew little of Christian Science but he did know 'The Ancient Mariner.' That was enough! That part where the Mariner felt a little love in his heart and saw that all things began to take on a new aspect was metaphysically explained and dwelt upon. From that moment there was a 'ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.'

"The day he had expected to die he was moved from the insane ward to one for nervous troubles. Here the doctor was openly hostile. He could not stop me from visiting but he used up the two-hour period as much as he could by having something done to the patient during that time. For a week this doctor and others had a new experiment to try each day. One day it was to be an operation on the spine, another on the head. Always he or others were intending to do something for the patient but they never did, although our friend was taken to the operating room twice and then sent back for further diagnosis. Daily the case appeared different to the doctors, so that what would be decided upon for the following day, the patient would then be found unsuited for. Things came to such a pass that it required higher demonstration.

"About this time I was reading Jacob's experience with Esau at the ford Jabbok. It was evident that Jacob had to realize the metaphysical concept of 'brother' or meet with certain destruction. After that famous meeting Esau asked Jacob a question and he answered, 'I have seen thy face, as

though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me,' and that reply satisfied each brother. This fact held my attention and after carefully studying the situation I came to the conclusion that Jacob had seen 'brother' as the reflection of Principle—'as though I had seen the face of God,' he said. I must therefore think of 'doctor' in the same way, and I did. I came to the conclusion that 'hospital' might represent that which aids men to be well and whole, and 'doctor' that consciousness which knows and ministers to every man as a brother.

"About this time a miracle seemed to happen. I did not go to the hospital till the day after and I found our friend was decidedly improved. He and another patient both told the same thing unknown to each other. In substance it was this. The doctor became gentle and considerate to all in the ward. There was a marked improvement in the health of all the patients. For a week I went to see our friend but never met the doctor. He was letting my patient alone except to be pleased at his rapid recovery. At the end of the week this ward had sent all of its patients to the convalescent wards or returned them to their organizations. Also my friend was active in all his functions, perfectly well and fit, so far as I could see. I gave him my post office address with the request to write me if he needed me again. I have not met him since but am informed he was soon after discharged—a well man."

With such healings attending the efforts of the Workers, it was little wonder that the usual reluctance of the medical practitioner to consent to the presence of Christian Scientists in the hospitals was somewhat modified. This greater spirit of tolerance was manifested not only in camps and training areas, but in the hospitals in and near the large cities temporarily loaned to the army and navy. Volunteer and regular Workers served successfully in the hospitals of Boston, New York, Minneapolis, Denver, Chicago, Wash-

ington, Toronto and elsewhere. Meanwhile Workers regularly stationed at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Fort McPherson, Georgia; Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and the shell shock and tuberculosis hospitals near Asheville, North Carolina, were reporting interesting cases of healing, some of which are recorded elsewhere in this volume.

Having given the reader this brief outline of the Camp Welfare work in general, we now proceed to mention in more detail the several lines of activity which characterized the work everywhere. For convenience these have been grouped under different headings. The first, "Daily Deeds," deals with the most conspicuous details of the daily routine of Camp Welfare Workers. The second, "Quiet Resting Places," gives an interesting account of the various buildings and rooms operated by the Committee. The third, "Our Only Preachers," tells of the Christian Science services held throughout the world by the men in khaki and blue. The fourth, "He Sent His Word," gives some idea of what was accomplished by distribution of Christian Science literature. The fifth, "With the Forces Afloat," is a brief story of what was done for the boys of the navy.

DAILY DEEDS

A recruit sitting near a Camp Welfare Worker one day suddenly called out:

"What line are you in, big boy?"

"I'm not in the army line, if that's what you mean."

"Then what are you doing out here?" persisted the recruit.

"I'm a Welfare Worker."

"Welfare Worker, what's that?"

"A Welfare Worker is a man who hunts for soldiers for whom he can do favors." A long silence ensued, then—

"Whew! You're a rare bird."

Helpfulness—this was the keynote of our Workers' efforts in the camps. They made the welfare or well-being of the enlisted men their responsibility and as one soldier expressed it, "when one *fares well* by the help of Christian Science, he fares well in every phase of his being—mental, moral and physical."

Probably nothing will indicate better the variety of service performed by a Camp Welfare Worker than to quote from the report of one who describes a typical day's work.

"In the early morning the Camp Worker awakens with the birds. His thought reaches out for more spiritual light as he gives a number of treatments to the faithful soldiers who have applied for help and who are so earnestly striving to meet their strenuous problems.

"Later he finds his way to the camp to deliver the Monitors and other parcels from the Camp Welfare Committee, conscious that his times are in God's hands, and that each moment will bring forth fruitage.

"First, he inquires of the railroad representative when the next troop trains will leave, that he may distribute Monitors on them. Then, in crossing the street to the post office for his mail, he is approached by a stranger—a shy, diffident country boy who has evidently just been drafted and who has a letter to the Commanding Officer, a mile or so down the camp. So the Worker invites him to get into the machine and they start for the Receiving Office. On the way there he makes a stop at the Fire Department headquarters, where twenty-five Monitors are left. Then the Receiving Station is reached, where the young patriot is to be initiated into a new experience and gain a larger vision of world events.

"It was Love's direction to perform this kindly service and to give a few words of loving counsel, which seemed greatly appreciated. But now, in its own way, Love seemed to halt all activities and to direct the Worker to take time to read the recent Monitors which he had just received at the post office. So, quietly and leisurely, in the face of many things demanding his time, he drove his car to an open space near by the receiving tents and began to read the Monitor. Why he should have taken even this twenty minutes in the midst of an overfull day of duties was not at the time just clear to him, but since he felt peaceful about it, he enjoyed the recreation and feast of good things that the reading brought. The reason for this pause, however, was soon made clear when presently, an officer, seeing the lettering on the car, stepped up to the machine with the exclamation that he had been looking for the Camp Worker for several days but had been unable to find him. He was most anxious to obtain a vest-pocket Science and Health and to have a conversation along metaphysical lines. Just then another young man approached who also wanted a Science and Health. Then a Y. M. C. A. Worker who was passing by said, 'Haven't you got one of those little books to give me?' and added, 'You know when you and your wife first came to

camp I wondered how you had ever taken up with such a thing as I thought Christian Science to be. Then I watched you and your work, and it seemed to me that you had something that others did not have, and the first thing I knew I wished I could know something more about Christian Science from the standpoint of the Christian Scientist himself. I read some of the Monitors that I found in the hut, and then, as you will remember, I had an hour's talk with you one day. During the talk a burn on my hand was healed, and now I really want to read Science and Health.' Then followed another talk of a half hour or so, and a Science and Health was given to the Secretary, who proved to be an Episcopalian minister.

"Starting on his way, the Camp Worker remembered that a man in the Fire Station a block away had inquired for him, so this was the next call, which lasted some time, and after a most interesting talk another Science and Health was given to the interested beginner. From here the Worker went to the barracks to deliver Monitors to all the officers in the regiment.

"After this he sought an interview with a certain Colonel who had been none too courteous at a previous call when consent had been given to distribute the Monitor to only fifteen out of his two hundred officers. Good work had been done in the meantime however, and thus the interview was pleasant and profitable, and arrangements were made to send the paper daily for a month to each of his two hundred officers. Having carefully read various articles in the Monitor the hour before, the Worker was able to point out to the Colonel the vital things in the copies which he showed him.

"It was noon and time to go to the Hostess House, where the Worker was to take lunch with four Y. M. C. A. Secretaries, as a member of the committee for making plans to take a religious census of the new recruits. It was a source of gratification to see the kindly and respectful attitude of the Y. M. C. A. Workers towards any ideas presented by the

Christian Science representative, for they evidently included him as one of them and recognized no mental barriers.

"From here a call was made at the base hospital to see a young man who, materia medica had said, 'had slim chances.' The Worker had been directed to this young man a few days before by someone who had been interested in him. The patient was not a Scientist and said he did not think he cared to have Science treatment, but that he would like the Worker to call again. Today he met the Worker with a beaming face and said, 'I feel like a different man. Your talk the other day almost healed me, and so I want a copy of Science and Health and a testament. I never felt so happy before, and feel sure I will soon be out of the hospital.'

"Several other calls were made at the hospital and two copies of Science and Health were given out. Then the outgoing troop trains were visited as soon as they were located, and the Worker placed 400 Monitors on them—Monitors which had been left over from his daily delivery because of a delay in their arrival, so that eight hundred had been received on this day. He waited until the troops were loaded and the trains started. As the men waved their farewells many had the Monitors in their hands and others were reading them.

"And now as the day is almost over, the Worker drives over to the Welfare Cottage and the men soon begin to arrive for an evening's visit—a colonel, a lieutenant, two 'non-coms' and several privates, five of whom desire treatment. While the treatments are given in an adjoining room, those waiting visit together and tell of the blessings that Christian Science has brought into their lives. At about ten thirty they begin to leave. Then correspondence and records are attended to and the work for the next day considered. Thus ends at midnight one of the happiest days of the Worker's experience, and he thanks God for His goodness to the sons of men."

A War Relief Room and Automobile,
Newport News, Virginia

The Fireplace in the Building at Camp Fremont,
California

An arrangement for carrying literature in automobile

CAMP WELFARE COMMITTEE

When one realizes that an army cantonment sometimes covered thousands of acres of ground it will readily be seen that the Camp Workers had to be provided with automobiles in order to cover this large territory, to distribute literature and to locate men in various parts of the camp. At one time the Committee owned as many as sixty-nine cars. These all bore in gold letters on each side the words, "Christian Science Camp Welfare Committee." The wisdom of marking the cars in this way was proved again and again. In one instance our Worker drove past a group of men who were drilling. One remarked: "There goes that Christian Science car. You know, my wife has been sick for a long time and can't get well. Seeing that name makes me think that she had better try Christian Science." His neighbor then told him that he was a Scientist and advised him to ask for treatment for his wife, later lending him his copy of Science and Health.

At another camp our Worker left his car in front of the library building, and returning, found a soldier comfortably seated in it. The lad said he felt at home at once and he was most grateful to hear of the Christian Science services being held in the camp. Our Worker adds that this soldier was the first one to arrive at the service on the following Sunday.

In one of his reports a Worker near Washington, D. C., says:

"Repeatedly when I come back to the car after visiting the barracks, I find men waiting for me who tell me they are Christian Scientists and were attracted by the sign. Most of them are men who have recently arrived in camp and did not know there was a Worker. Only yesterday I stopped the car in front of another company of men who were lined up on one

of the streets of Fort Myer, and when the order was given to dismiss, four of them walked over to the car. Three told me they were Scientists and wanted information, the other stood for a moment looking at the sign. After a moment he reached in his pocket and pulled out a well-worn pocket edition of the textbook, saying, 'I wouldn't take a hundred dollars for that.' "

Another Worker tells the following:

"One of the new boys just from Jefferson Barracks saw my car passing and whistled the shriek of a lusty youth to call my attention. I could not locate the whistle and concluded it was not for me. But the crowd knew, as the boy was running full speed to catch me, and by calls and yells from the crowd, I was stopped. He came up breathless and panted out: 'I say, but I am glad to get you! I want a Science and Health and a Monitor. I haven't seen either for a week.' "

Many and various were the uses to which the Camp Welfare car was put. On one occasion the Worker's car was picking a careful way over a bumpy road. Two women were walking along in the heat and the dust, going the same way. A cheerful greeting was called, the car door was swung invitingly wide and the two, with grateful words and smiles, stepped in. One of them, the camp librarian, with an apologetic air, asked the Worker if he were going to a camp several miles away that afternoon. The reply was affirmative. It was then explained that a Y. M. C. A. Secretary from this camp had asked for a book desired by an enlisted man who came to his building. The Worker readily agreed to deliver the book. When he entered the "Y" and placed the book on the counter before the Secretary, the latter exclaimed, "How did you know I wanted that book?" The case was explained

and the Worker said, further, "How many times must I tell you that I stand ready always to be of service?"

"When he says that, he means it," spoke up a "Y" man standing near, whom the Worker had not noticed before. Turning in surprise, the Christian Scientist saw it was somebody he had never seen. Noting the interrogative look, the "Y" man said: "When I was stationed at one of the camps in the South, whenever anybody wanted anything done, the Christian Science Camp Welfare Worker was the man they got to do it. That man was always going somewhere with his car full of something or somebody."

Like Paul, in his epistle to the Corinthians, the Camp Welfare Worker might have said of himself: "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." His car was known from one end of the camp to the other as one of the few cars upon the running board of which a soldier might leap at any time uninvited, and always be greeted with a smile and the welcome of a friend of long standing.

At one camp, the Worker's car came in with a squad that had been left to guard baggage beside a railroad track a mile or two away from the barracks. Trucks had come for the baggage but the guard had been forgotten and was just starting to trudge its way to its tents, when discovered by the Worker. The top of the car was taken down, the soldiers' full packs and rifles and other equipment were piled in and then the squad mounted on top of this. They were taken to their encampment area in the car instead of walking the whole way.

Orderlies, struggling along under big bags of home mail, came, in one camp at least, to look for the car

labeled, "Christian Science Camp Welfare Committee," for it meant the lifting of heavy burdens off their shoulders and an opportunity to find rest the remainder of the way to headquarters.

During the quarantine period in another camp, when the mail accumulated at the Y. M. C. A. hostess house and there was nobody available to keep it going to the post office, in order that the relatives of the men might know how they were faring, the Worker, on the way for his own mail, would stop and get a load of soldiers' mail, and take it to the office, bringing back the mail for the hostess and her assistants.

Again the Worker found time, together with his own great amount of work, to take the parents of men in the hospital from the railway stations to the wards where their boys were to be found. Coming from a section where but little is known of Christian Science or Christian Scientists these relatives and friends have had reason to carry away a friendly memory of the Welfare Worker. Of a Worker in one of the camps in the southeast, an officer spoke feelingly, "The day was never too long nor the night too dark for him to do anybody a good turn."

Says another Worker:

"This morning as we drove up to the post office for the mail, an army officer approached the car and asked that I drive him back to camp after some important papers that he had left behind. I did so. Later when we arrived at the head of the column we found the lads strung all along the road, overtaxed with their heavy packs, going up the hill. A lieutenant doctor and I worked with them for two hours carrying them up the hill and down to the boat landing. Most of the boys that fell out were from the hospital. I made six trips and then came back after the packs. A hospital ambulance

Christian Science Welfare House,
Washington, D. C.

Rooms and Offices in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

A spacious Welfare Room in San Diego, California

made four trips. The officers were delighted with the 'lift' and were outspoken in their praise of the War Relief work."

Says another Worker:

"While visiting the base hospital, a telephone message came to the convalescent building, saying that two of the soldiers who were to have been taken for an automobile ride had been disappointed. I volunteered to take them out in our car. The boys were delighted. One of them had never seen Washington before and was much pleased with the White House, Government buildings, the beautiful speedway drive and the various points of interest."

The automobile proved itself useful in an unusual way during a sand storm in Oklahoma. Our Worker had called to help the boys prepare for the Sunday service. The storm being at its height, it was impossible to seek the usual secluded outdoor nook. The men, however, drove the car near an observation tower, placed it with its back to the wind, put up all the curtains and found the interior an ideal place in which to study the lesson.

On one occasion at least, the good deeds done by the camp car were returned in kind. Our Worker, upon visiting a patient in the base hospital, found him in the best of condition. "How do you get around the camp?" asked the soldier. The Worker answered that he had a Ford. The boy's face brightened, as he said: "I am a Ford expert. Let me fix the machine when it gets out of repair." This was his way of expressing gratitude for benefits received.

Of our "Welfare Fleet," which was the grandiose designation of our two launches, more will be said in the chapter devoted to work in the navy.

The Christian Science War Relief Committee also maintained a Home Service Department, although it

was not dignified by that name, nor specifically organized for that purpose. It was the natural outgrowth of the fact that the men in the camps and their friends and families at home turned to Christian Science to smooth out all the difficulties presented by the war—and they were many and various. In this work the main office in Boston was naturally the clearing house through which these calls for help were sent out, to be taken care of by workers in the camps or overseas.

For example, on October 7, 1918, a telegram was received in the Boston office stating that a young man in Camp Eustis, Virginia, was ill. His family desired our Worker there to visit him and report to them. Our Committee at once wired the Worker in Camp Eustis and in a day or so he reported the young man as being practically well again. This message was at once forwarded to the uncle who had sent the inquiry and from him we received the following grateful reply:

"My wife and myself wish to express our gratitude for the loving help that was extended to our nephew by the Welfare Worker at Camp Eustis, Virginia. We wired you on October 6 that he was ill and asked for your assistance which was promptly given. Our nephew has expressed to us his delight in receiving the pocket-size Bible which completed his pocket equipment for study. During the many months in which we have been contributing to the Welfare fund we did not realize how close to home the Welfare work might come and you can therefore appreciate the satisfaction we now have, in knowing that we had some part in carrying on this wonderful work from which we received such loving cooperation in the time of need."

This service was not limited to Christian Scientists, of course. On one occasion a call came over the phone

in Boston for information about a boy who was ill in Vancouver Barracks, Washington. A wire to our Worker at that point brought the following response: "Private B. much better. Looking forward to father's arrival." The Worker later wrote:

"I went immediately to the hospital and located B. in one of the pneumonia wards. I was allowed but a few minutes' talk with him. I told him who I was and that I had been requested to visit him. He indicated that he did not want Christian Science treatment but was very appreciative and said he would be glad to see me again."

The relief and comfort brought at such times to the anxious ones at home, can readily be imagined, yet it was much greater in the case of those having wounded boys in France. The many miles which separated them from their loved ones, and the knowledge that it was difficult, if not impossible to receive reports on their condition until sometimes many months had passed, made the efforts of our committee of great service to the "home folks."

When a case which seemed urgent was reported to the Boston office, a cable was dispatched to the Paris headquarters asking that the boy be visited in person, if this was possible, or helped in Christian Science, if this was desired, or a report secured through the Government Records. Sometimes the reply would be surprisingly prompt, bringing much joy to the families here. Then again many weeks would pass, because our Workers in France found the records in such a chaotic condition that they were often obliged to trace the case through many hospitals or camps.

One instance will serve to illustrate. A letter was received in our office on July 24, 1918, stating that a

certain marine had been gassed. His family, who were Scientists, requested treatment for him if he desired it and also deposited ten dollars to be delivered to him with a copy of the vest-pocket textbook. On August 14 we were able to telegraph his family that our Paris office had cabled his condition as much improved. A letter which followed in due course said that a sergeant, a Christian Scientist, in this boy's own company, had been put in touch with him, that he had received his money and the textbook and was improving.

At another time when help was requested for a seriously wounded soldier, on November 1, 1918, our Paris office reported on November 15 that he was receiving treatment and was doing well.

Our Committee in England likewise gave us loving cooperation in such cases. In reply to a cable sent them about a man in an English hospital, they cabled that he was improving, following their report by a letter which read:

"On receipt of your cable asking that Private T. should be visited at Bethnal Green Hospital, we got in touch with a practitioner who went at once to see him, and found that he had been badly wounded in the arm and was most anxious to see a Christian Scientist. Treatment was given him, and he wrote next day saying that there was great improvement and that he felt much encouraged and supported through the loving thought of the committee in Boston, which had been instrumental in meeting his need."

Literally hundreds of calls of such a nature came to our Committee, and as our faithful workers proved so helpful in securing the information desired, the volume of the work increased proportionately. Very many requests came from those who were not Chris-

tian Scientists and these received the same attention as the others.

The demands were not always to locate wounded men—they were as multifarious as human needs. One which was constantly recurring was to get word to boys overseas that their families were writing regularly, or to send word to the same boys that no letters had been received. An interesting example of the former was a request sent us by a lady in Texas to inform her brother in England, who had been abroad some five months without news from home, that his family were all well and were writing regularly. This letter was forwarded to our English Committee and of the result the boy's own letter will speak:

"Dear Mother and all: I heard from home today. It was not through a letter but through a lady who approached me on the street in Liverpool. She asked me my name and said she had a message for me from home and told me you were all well. She said she was a Christian Scientist. It sure made me feel happy."

One other service rendered to the men should be mentioned—that of delivering money through our overseas offices. Friends in this country deposited money at a War Relief office in this country and our Paris office delivered the amount requested to the boy in France. Sometimes the many moves made by the men over there made it very difficult to reach them. Again the man was very promptly located. For example, $50 was sent to the Boston office on September 25, 1918, to be cabled to a boy then in France. A letter from our Paris office dated October 22 stated that the check had been received and acknowledged by the boy in question. In several instances, also, our

overseas office was able to advance money to men in France, which was refunded by the parents in this country or by the boys themselves upon their return. In such a case as this latter, our Worker at Camp Lewis recently sent us a check amounting to $192.30 loaned by our Paris office to a lieutenant then in France. Our Worker writes:

"Lieutenant B. expressed a great deal of gratitude for the favor shown him and said he was going home to tell all he came in contact with, of the many blessings that had come to him, during his service, through Christian Science."

It is impossible to describe or even to call to memory the many kinds of service rendered to the men in uniform. Some of the demands made upon the committee were ludicrous, some were tragic; some were joyous, some were sad; some were easy of fulfilment, some were difficult, but a sincere effort was always made to meet the need, for the Christian Science Workers were constantly striving, in the words of Isaiah, "to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free."

"QUIET RESTING PLACES"

Very early in the establishment of the Camp Welfare work it became evident that some sort of building was needed in each camp as a headquarters for the Christian Scientists. The men felt the need of a quiet retreat to which they could come for study and spiritual refreshment and where they could meet the Worker to talk over the problems which military life presented. Moreover, it was necessary to provide a room where our services could be held regularly and where the literature could be obtained and sent forth for distribution.

Simple and homelike in structure, cozily furnished, with flower boxes at the windows and "Welcome" over the door, the Christian Science Buildings have been a refuge not only to young soldiers but to the stranger, the chaplain, the nurses and relatives of boys in need. Christian Scientists know, however, that these buildings, no matter how attractive, could never of themselves have met the heart's great need. It was the conscious realization of the presence of divine Love, its protecting Fatherhood and Motherhood, which created the loving atmosphere that attracts, uplifts and comforts. Many a heartsick boy having come to the War Relief Building and having found there a touch of humanity, came later on to find Divinity,—seeking a quiet, homey place, he found also healing and courage.

With the consent and approval of the Commanding Officers, buildings were erected for the use of Christian Scientists, or rooms were designated by the Government for their occupancy, in or near the following

camps: McClellan, Alabama; Sheridan, Alabama; Pike, Arkansas; Kearny, California; Fremont, California; Hancock, Georgia; Wheeler, Georgia; Merritt, New Jersey; Mills, New York; Jackson, South Carolina; Bowie, Texas; Lewis, Washington.

In addition, tents were maintained, in some cases being provided by the Government, at: San Pedro, California; Camp Beauregard, Louisiana; Pelham Bay, New York; Commack, Long Island, New York; Camp Greene, North Carolina; Paris Island, South Carolina; Ellington Field, Texas; Camp Logan, Texas.

At Camp McClellan, Alabama, part of a Government building was made available to our Committee. It was fitted up in an attractive manner and made to appear homelike. At Camp Sheridan the Committee originally used a room which was practically within the camp. We later built a small structure just outside the camp at a cost of $877. It was a simple frame building with a large porch across the front, fitted up in the interior as a combined reading and writing room. In Camp Pike, Arkansas, the Government placed part of a building at the disposal of our Worker.

The building at Camp Kearny, California, was designed for our own use and built by us at a cost of $2200. It contained a reading room, storeroom and rest room for the men and office, bedroom and shower for the Camp Worker. There were two cozy corners in the reading room with easy-chairs, and twelve reading desks with plain oak chairs to accommodate forty soldiers. It was not the original plan to paint the building but some of the soldiers volunteered to do the work if the material was provided.

This was done, the interior presenting a very restful and pleasing appearance in a shade of gray with window frames harmoniously contrasted. Drapery for the windows was furnished and two soldiers put it in place. A "Y" Secretary who visited the rooms soon after, said, "You people have a knack of always expressing beauty and art in everything you do, no matter how inexpensive it may be."

At Camp Fremont, California, a beautiful building was also constructed by the Committee, costing $3045. It was of the bungalow type, in a setting of trees, and among other attractive features contained a great fireplace.

A large tent within Camp Hancock, Georgia, was the original center of Christian Science activities in that cantonment but later a very fine building was erected at a cost of $3265. This edifice looked much like the other camp buildings without, but its interior was most tasteful and comfortable. There was a large living room, adaptable either for reading or writing or for religious services. This opened into a smaller room used as a private office and in addition the resident workers had comfortable living quarters. Bright colored curtains at the windows, plants and flowers here and there, and a pretty vase or candlestick contributed the necessary home touches.

In Camp Wheeler, Georgia, the Government gave us the use of a building known to the boys as "the little cottage by the lake." It was surrounded by a wide veranda and stood in a wooded patch on the edge of a little lake.

The building erected by the Committee at Camp Merritt, New Jersey, was the most commodious and expensive of all those owned by us. Merritt was pos-

sibly the largest embarkation camp in the United States, thousands of troops passing through it daily on their way overseas, and as many on their return trip. For this reason it was deemed right and necessary to have a building adequate to meet this need. The first building at Camp Merritt was a small portable cottage which stood on "Inspiration Point" just outside of Picket No. 4. It commanded a beautiful view of the surrounding countryside, standing on the main thoroughfare at the top of the hill. Along this road and down this hill all the troops passed on their way to the trains which carried them to the waiting transports. This small cottage was soon seen to be entirely inadequate and plans were laid for a fine structure which ultimately cost in excess of $10,000. A bulletin of the New Jersey State Committee describes the building as follows:

"It is a one-story frame structure, 50 by 30 feet, with broad piazzas on two sides. The piazza facing Madison Avenue is protected from the street by a natural screen of white birch trees, while the one on the eastern side commands a beautiful view of the Palisades.

"The original temporary room, which was the first of the Christian Science Camp Welfare rooms to be established, has been moved back upon the lot and is used as a practitioner's office. On a line with the new building, and facing it as it does, it reminds one of the proverbial grain of mustard seed looking out upon its own large branch. Both buildings are painted white with green trim, and have attractive window boxes filled with flowers.

"There are two main rooms in the new building, an office or reception room and a larger room for reading and writing. These are connected by glass doors capable of folding to permit the two to be made into one large room, for services or lectures, as the occasion may require. The inside walls are

of beaver-board, painted a yellow ivory color, with the wood of a lighter shade, giving an agreeable effect of warmth and light. A large stone fireplace is one of the attractive features of the reception room. Four double French doors open on to the piazza through which the men can enjoy a view of the Palisades, as they sit at service, or in quiet thought, reminding many of the Psalmist's words, 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.'

"The furnishings consist of individual writing desks stained mahogany color, large tables, davenports and chairs of wicker. A piano was loaned by two Christian Scientists, and it is an inspiring sight to see our men in uniform standing around it singing hymns after the evening service.

"One of the most interesting features connected with the building, which occasioned much favorable comment, was the installation of twelve drinking fountains of iced water in a stone wall along the sidewalk in front of the building. There is a large tank inside this wall containing twelve coils of pipe fifty feet each in length, through which the water flows, emerging upon the surface from faucets known as bubblers, upon pressure of the buttons connected with the faucets. The water in these coils is chilled by ice with which the tanks are kept supplied. In this way, twelve soldiers at a time may obtain a cool and refreshing drink.

"The way in which this method was discovered is very interesting. The idea having occurred to one of the Committee, in trying to work it out, he found that the necessary equipment for the purpose could only be secured from a firm dealing in bar fixtures. The proprietor of this firm remarked the day after receiving the order: 'I could hardly sleep last night for thinking of your idea of using this cooling apparatus for the purpose of water fountains. It has never been used before except for beer, and with prohibition coming, I have been worried about my business and this has suggested to me a new avenue of work.' This incident in connection with the fountains has led to their being called the 'replacement

draught,' and is the second instance whereby the course of our work has led to the replacement of a destructive concept by a constructive one, the Welfare Room at Hoboken having formerly been a bar room.

"The following letter from General S., in command of the camps in our State, shows how much these fountains are appreciated:

" 'My attention has recently been called to an excellent and very serviceable drinking fountain established in front of your Welfare House. This fountain with its unusual facilities is a most welcome addition to the camp and I desire to thank you for the thoughtfulness which prompted its installation.' "

At Camp Mills, New York, a building was erected by the Committee at a cost of $1850. It was located within the camp, being on the main thoroughfare. It was 20 by 40 feet with an 8-foot screened and lighted porch the full length of the 40-foot side, being divided into a large Welfare room, with practitioner's office and sleeping accommodations at one end. It was painted white with green trimmings, and had awnings and screens for comfort during the summer. The furniture was soft-toned brown reed, upholstered in blue and brown chintz, the curtains and hangings being of the same material. Through the generous cooperation of a member of a local church, trees were planted, a lawn prepared and a rustic fence put in place.

The Committee also erected and owned a building in Camp Jackson, South Carolina, costing $2175. The following item from a letter of the Worker at Camp Jackson is of unusual interest in connection with this building:

"On Monday, April 29, 1918, the foundation was put in for our Camp Welfare Building at Camp Jackson. In the

evening a few of our boys on short notice, together with Camp Worker and Welfare Building Attendant, held a little service on a lumber pile, using passages from the Bible and Science and Health as found on page 17 of The First Church of Christ, Scientist and Miscellany, used at the laying of the corner stone of the Extension of The Mother Church."

This building had a very beautiful setting among the pine trees and one of its features was a long screened-in porch on which were tables supplied with Christian Science literature and writing material. It contained a fine large living room with a fireplace at one end.

At Camp Bowie, Texas, the Committee was able to purchase, at a cost of $1418, a large structure intended for a restaurant. Government regulations did not permit the owner to maintain it within the camp zone and he was very glad to turn it over to our Committee. It was a two-story building with a large auditorium, writing room and Worker's office on the first floor and comfortable living accommodations on the second.

At Camp Lewis, Washington, there were large numbers of Scientists in training. To meet their need for a quiet place in which to study the lesson, two tents were first set up in a grove of trees a mile from the cantonment. Keen with interest in all that concerned the War Relief activities and grateful for the good received therefrom, some forty Christian Science soldiers banded together and within ten days built a small cottage on property that had been secured for the future use of the Welfare Work. This they called home and every nook and corner was dear to them. Many of those who had hitherto spent their week-ends in the city, whiling away the time in worthless amusements, now came in to read and study to their profit.

As this cottage was very soon outgrown, a larger permanent building was erected on the same piece of property at a cost of $6120, the original house serving as Worker's quarters. The new building was a beautiful one, in the bungalow style, having a large fireplace at one end of a spacious room used for a reading room and for the church services. There was also a fully equipped writing room, as well as private rooms for quiet talks with boys who came for treatment. The entire building was very tastefully furnished, and supplied the atmosphere of "home, sweet home," as one of the boys remarked when he first entered it. This building has since been given by the War Relief Committee to the Christian Science Churches and Societies of the Northwest and is now operated by them.

Besides the buildings which have just been mentioned, the Committee maintained Welfare rooms in towns adjoining camps or training stations and in most of the larger cities. Fine, well-furnished rooms were in operation in San Francisco, San Diego, Chicago, Indianapolis, Des Moines, Baltimore, Boston, Minneapolis, New York, Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Portland, Philadelphia, Galveston and Seattle, to mention only those in the United States.

In most cases the smaller rooms opened in towns near the camps were far from attractive to the eye, at least on the outside, but in every one the interior was transformed for our purpose. Light and cleanliness were prime essentials and to these, through the loving thought of the Workers and attendants, homey touches were added which went far toward making these little rooms the home which the hearts of the boys in service were yearning for. Sometimes it was bright cretonne curtains; sometimes an easy-

chair or a comfortable couch; again it was a water cooler, or again a spray of flowers. Each appealed to a different need.

In one of the rooms a soldier sat writing a letter home. When he had finished he came over to the attendant, saying, "Would you like to see what I have written home about these rooms?" He had drawn an elaborate plan, showing every piece of furniture, and had covered two pages with praise of the attractiveness of the room. Every detail was mentioned, the soft shaded lights, the flowers, especially the hyacinth plant "which gives the room a delightfully scented atmosphere," the "grand comfortable chairs" and the "hand-painted Italian lamp shade." The "very cozy look" and the air of "quiet seclusion" were commented upon and the description concluded, "Both rooms are charming—so restful and helpful for reading and for writing."

To these bronzed and hardened soldiers, the beautiful meant more than one might suspect. On the day before Easter an exquisite white lily was placed in one of our rooms and shortly after it arrived a soldier came in. As soon as he saw the lily, a look of satisfaction came into his face and he exclaimed: "I just knew you would have one. I kept thinking about it this morning when I was working and could hardly wait to get down. I knew I would not be disappointed." A Worker in Washington state writes:

"Beauty and order in the Welfare room in the Seamen's Barracks (Bremerton, Washington) brought fruitage today. A fine looking sailor lad came in just as the Worker arrived and said he had started to come into the room because it was the only place where he saw any flowers and he liked to write there on that account, but now wanted to read the literature,

and while the Worker was about he remained reading the Journal."

On the reading tables of the buildings and rooms were always to be found a complete set of our Leader's works, together with all the authorized Christian Science literature. To many a Science lad the familiar covers of these books in themselves suggested home and peace. In most of the rooms were hung photographs of Mrs. Eddy and of The Mother Church, and the "Mother" thought which reached out to meet the needs of the men in service has led many a grateful one to membership in the church.

The following is a complete list of the rooms and buildings maintained by the War Relief Committee:

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA:
- Camp McClellan
- Camp Sheridan

ARKANSAS:
- Camp Pike
- Little Rock

CALIFORNIA:
- San Francisco (Presidio)
- San Diego
- Camp Kearny
- Camp Fremont

CONNECTICUT:
- New London

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:
- Washington

FLORIDA:
- Key West

GEORGIA:
- Atlanta (Camp Gordon)
- Augusta
- Camp Hancock
- Camp Wheeler

ILLINOIS:
- North Chicago (Great Lakes Naval Training Station)
- Rockford (Camp Grant)
- Chicago

INDIANA:
- Indianapolis

IOWA:
- Des Moines
- Camp Dodge

KANSAS:
- Army City (Camp Funston)
- Junction City

KENTUCKY:
- Camp Taylor

War Relief Room, 512 Fifth Avenue, New York City

A Corner of the Rooms in the Little Building,
Boston, Massachusetts

CAMP WELFARE COMMITTEE

LOUISIANA:
- Alexandria
- Camp Beauregard

MARYLAND:
- Baltimore (Camps Meade and Holabird)

MASSACHUSETTS:
- Ayer (Camp Devens)
- Boston

MINNESOTA:
- Minneapolis

MISSISSIPPI:
- Hattiesburg (Camp Shelby)

NEW HAMPSHIRE:
- Portsmouth

NEW JERSEY:
- Hoboken
- Camp Dix
- Camp Merritt

NEW MEXICO:
- Deming (Camp Cody)

NEW YORK:
- New York City
- Camp Mills

OHIO:
- Columbus
- Cleveland
- Cincinnati
- Port Clinton
- Chillicothe
- Camp Sherman

OKLAHOMA:
- Lawton (Camp Doniphan and Fort Sill)

OREGON:
- Portland

PENNSYLVANIA:
- Gettysburg (Camp Colt)
- Pittsburgh
- Philadelphia

SOUTH CAROLINA:
- Spartanburg (Camp Wadsworth)
- Greenville (Camp Sevier)
- Charleston
- Camp Jackson

TENNESSEE:
- Chattanooga
- (Camp Greenleaf and Fort Oglethorpe)

TEXAS:
- Galveston
- Camp Bowie

VIRGINIA:
- Newport News
- Norfolk
- Hampton
- Petersburg (Camp Lee)

WASHINGTON:
- Seattle
- Bremerton
- Port Townsend
- Vancouver
- Camp Lewis

CANADA

Toronto
Vancouver
Winnipeg

FRANCE

Paris
Bordeaux
St. Nazaire
Brest
Langres
Nevers
Le Mans
Romorantin
Nantes
Tours

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Aldershot
Bedford
Belfast
Bexhill
Blandford
Brighton
Buxton
Chatham
Colchester
Dover
Dublin
Edinburgh
Glasgow
Inverness
London
Liverpool
Newcastle
Plymouth
Portsmouth
Reading
Ripon
Seaford
Tunbridge Wells

In addition to the rooms, buildings and tents previously mentioned there were many important military and naval points where the Committee maintained a regular Worker who gave his entire time to the needs of the men and who supervised Christian Science services held at these camps. Besides this, there were innumerable other places where volunteer workers saw to it that the men were not neglected and where Christian Science literature was sent in abundance.

The following list contains the more important

points where regular Workers were established, although there was no War Relief Room or Building.

ALABAMA:
Mobile

COLORADO:
Fort Logan

FLORIDA:
Camp Joseph E. Johnston
Pensacola

INDIANA:
Fort Benjamin Harrison

KANSAS:
Fort Leavenworth

MICHIGAN:
Detroit
Camp Custer

MISSOURI:
Jefferson Barracks

NEW HAMPSHIRE:
Portsmouth Navy Yard

NEW YORK:
Camp Upton

NORTH CAROLINA:
Asheville

RHODE ISLAND:
Newport

TEXAS:
Love Field
Camp Dick
Camp McArthur
Fort Bliss
Kelly Fields
Border Camps

VIRGINIA:
Quantico
Camp Humphreys

These buildings and Welfare rooms were used for many different purposes. They served as reading rooms, and were always equipped with desks and writing materials. They became the rendezvous in which the home folks were able to meet their boys in the service. Many a jolly group has gathered in one of our buildings or rooms for a chat and sometimes there have been pop-corn parties or other festivities at holiday times.

Many needs of differing character were cared for in these rooms. Within these quiet retreats many a boy

caught his first real glimpse of God's goodness, and many were restored to health while reading or studying here. Sometimes on a Worker's couch a physical difficulty was mastered and a visit to the camp hospital made unnecessary. The rooms often echoed with the voices of strong young manhood raised in hymns of praise at our Sunday services or in grateful testimony at the midweek meetings. What these rooms meant to the men can probably best be told in their own words. A sergeant Q. M. C. writes:

"To be able to visit the rooms (at Newport News, Virginia) almost daily has been a privilege that I have more than enjoyed. Not only have I been able to read and study but also enjoy seeing others benefit from the great love that is extended to all who visit these rooms."

From a private at Camp Sheridan, Alabama:

"This reading room has been my first resort and it comes in very handy just at present as I have no light in my tent."

A private in the American Expeditionary Forces says:

"I take this opportunity of thanking you for your kindness and also for the Welfare House (Camp Jackson, South Carolina). It certainly was an inspiration to us. The Welfare House was truly an oasis in the desert—where one found refuge and succor from the many doubts and fears of mortal existence. 'Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need' (Science and Health, page 494). Many times did I go to the Welfare House depressed and with a heavy heart and came away refreshed and in a buoyant mood."

Sometimes the boys' enjoyment of the rooms took an amusing turn as shown by the following from our Worker at Camp Cody, New Mexico:

"Within two hours after I had placed our sign in the window four new men came in. They had arrived from El Paso that morning in a sandstorm. One of them picked up a Monitor and read the entire time he was here, another wrote letters, a third chatted with me, and the fourth just rocked. He said it was the first chair he had sat in since he entered the army and I have never seen anyone enjoy a chair so much."

Very often appreciation for our rooms has been expressed by persons who were not Christian Scientists. A colonel at a port of embarkation writes as follows:

"I desire to express to you my personal appreciation of the Christian Science War Relief rooms at this port.

"While I am not a Christian Scientist yet I am interested in the work and I have always found there a cordial welcome and an atmosphere of refinement and culture, and when I sought information on the teachings of Christian Science, it was given so tactfully and with such convincing logic that it has caused me to look upon Christian Science in a most favorable light.

"Your rooms here serve a purpose that cannot be fulfilled by any other Welfare organization and I congratulate you on the good permanent work that is being done."

A captain at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, says:

"It has been made plain to me that the scope of your work here is not confined to the members of your faith, but instead, is extended cordially to all. The restful aspect of the reading room especially appeals to me and the undersigned is in possession of information to the effect that this place has proved a great blessing to many who visit it."

In connection with the buildings and rooms maintained by this Committee, a word must also be said

about the Christian Science Welfare houses or hostels, of which there were two, one in Washington, D. C., and one in London, England. The latter will be described in the chapter devoted to the work in England. The one in Washington was located at 1222 Pennsylvania Avenue. It was started by a group of Christian Scientists in Washington who rented an old hotel and converted it into a clean, comfortable and attractive lodging house where from fifty-five to sixty boys could be accommodated at fifty cents each a night. The War Relief Committee rented the entire ground floor of this building, furnishing several spacious reading and writing rooms and offices and providing attendants and workers for them. The stories of the interesting little depots maintained in France and England properly find their place in the chapters devoted to those countries.

"OUR ONLY PREACHERS"

(Christian Science Quarterly)

On page 91 of "Retrospection and Introspection," Mrs. Eddy says:

"When *he* was with them, a fishing-boat became a sanctuary, and the solitude was peopled with holy messages from the All-Father. The grove became his class-room, and nature's haunts were the Messiah's university."

The Christian Scientist in civilian life is inexpressibly grateful for his church services but he may not fully realize the extent of the blessings they bring him until situated where he is obliged to do without them. Such was the case of the Science soldiers during the early days of the war before the Welfare work was organized. Their invariable statement was, "We never guessed what it would mean to be deprived of attending our church." Taken by the hundreds from their families and places of business, hurried off to training camps and there put through a strict régime of military discipline, which became more and more rigid as the time for going overseas approached, it was realized that the spiritual needs of these young Christian Scientists must be cared for, since none of the religious agencies recognized by the Government provided for them. Many of the camps were in sections of the country where there were no Christian Science churches and no registered practitioners. Others were miles from cities or towns where churches were available, and the means of transportation were limited and expensive for the soldier with his usually meager pay.

In this deprivation of church services many of the Science boys sought the quiet of the woods or camp libraries to read the lesson-sermons by themselves, or if, perchance, they were fortunate enough to meet other Science boys, two or three would gather together in His name and hold informal meetings. This was possible of course, because, as the notice in our Quarterly puts it, "The Bible and the Christian Science textbook are our only preachers." With these books in their hands, earnest Christian Scientists never need miss a church service. A lad from Florida writes as follows of one which he conducted:

"I held a service all by myself yesterday out on the banks of the St. John River, reading from the Quarterly and singing the hymns from the Hymnal. I even took up a collection of thankfulness which I am sending to The Mother Church."

Conditions in the training camps indicated clearly what would be faced by the men when in camp or at the front in Europe. Therefore the soldier Scientist must be shown that he need not lean upon civilians or any civilian organization in order to attain the spiritual comfort and sustenance which the Christian Science service would mean to him. He must be educated to grasp the fact of his sole dependence upon God and his independence of material surroundings. Therefore, the Camp Welfare Workers were sent forth with instructions to train the young Scientists to stand on their own feet where services were concerned, to prepare them for possibly greater isolation later across the Atlantic.

It was often in some such simple way as the following that services were started:

"Yesterday when the Worker drove up to the 'Y' eight

boys, each from a different part of the country, came up to the machine and asked us to read the lesson. We went out in the shade in a quiet spot and ten of us had a fine service. We shall be organized by next Sunday, I'm sure."

Shortly after the same Worker wrote:

"Our services at 9:30 a.m. Sunday are splendid and the boys are delighted. I hear them talking about 'our services.' We have a room in the Y. M. C. A. hut but while the weather is so warm, we are meeting out of doors. One boy wrote home that we had the finest lighted and best ventilated church in the world."

Before a room was secured for their use about seventeen Christian Scientists gathered in the National Cemetery at historic Gettysburg and went over the lesson. Later these men of the Tank Corps held a regular service in their own room, which a visitor described as very impressive and earnest.

The meetings in camps were held in various places: Y. M. C. A. huts, Jewish Welfare buildings, camp theaters, gymnasium halls, mess halls, tents and often under the most unusual conditions.

In the larger camps and training stations where the men stayed sometimes for several months, a simple organization was usually formed. In one camp, when the Worker called the men together, they chose, without any preparation save silent prayer for guidance, a board of directors consisting of a major, a captain, a lieutenant, a sergeant and a private. This board each month chose two readers to serve for the ensuing monthly period, the First Reader a commissioned officer and the Second Reader an enlisted man. The Worker was then given the names of the new readers, the Bible and the textbook were placed

in his hands and he was asked to notify the men who had been chosen and request them to be prepared to read the next Sunday and continue to do so until their term of service was up.

This plan proved admirably efficient in its workings, until departure for overseas drew near. Then, as nobody knew which organization would leave first or whether either of the regularly chosen readers would be able to be present for the next meeting, *every* Christian Scientist participating in the work in the camp came to service prepared to substitute for one or the other of the readers. The Worker in this camp, because so much of the responsibility for the work was assumed by the men themselves (in line with the Committee's plan), laughingly referred to himself as merely an "errand boy" for the soldier Scientists.

In other camps the readers were chosen direct by the congregation, to serve for varying lengths of time.

In one case the readers were made a committee to obtain a place for holding services, which were announced to start the following Sunday. A mess hall not then in use was found available. The Second Reader, a handy man with tools, constructed two readers' desks, and on the Saturday preceding the first service, drove the truck which brought firewood to the building and swung the axe which cut the wood for the fire that made the hall more comfortable. Never were hymns sung with more fervor, nor the reading of the lesson-sermon listened to with closer attention than by these earnest young soldiers.

The men showed their keen interest and love for these simple services, oftentimes making distinct sacrifices to be present. Soldier readers have been known to forego furloughs in order to be at their post

in camp on Sunday. One boy, who was an attendant in the hospital, working all night, curtailed his sleep in order to attend the morning service. On another occasion twenty-four men came in a drenching rain, two of them omitting their breakfast in order to arrive on time. One boy made a special trip to a Wednesday evening meeting to testify to the healing of an ulcerated tooth. He was on duty until late and ran so hard that he could hardly talk when he arrived, but he was determined to speak.

There were times even in camps in this country when our boys found themselves without a room in which to assemble. In one such instance, a little group of men went down to a clump of trees near a railroad track, piled railroad ties against two saplings to make a desk, the readers hung their hats in the trees, the congregation sat on other ties and the service began. It was a wonderful day, with the blue sky overhead, the sun only an hour high, and the birds, the blossoms and the trees adding their pæans of praise to the hymns that arose from the little grove. That service, in its earnestness and spiritual fervor, made a lasting impression on all who participated.

At the time the epidemic of fear (alias influenza) appeared in the camps, in many instances the assembling of the men in large groups was forbidden, especially indoors. The Christian Scientists were obedient wherever this ruling was made, but small groups would assemble and go over the lesson in the open air somewhere about their camp. In one instance a group of six assembled at a big woodpile, found seats, chose readers and put into the service every bit of mental energy they could command. And why not? The subject was, "Are Sin, Disease and Death Real?" All

about them in the camp were those who feared these false beliefs and it was the Christian Scientists' earnest desire to heal, not only themselves, but all concerned, of this fear. They sang the hymns, listened to a Scriptural reading, had silent prayer and applied themselves closely to the study of the lesson-sermon. In another instance, a coal-pile served as the setting for a service.

Primitive as were the surroundings at these simple gatherings, they never failed to draw eager audiences. One Worker tells of an overflowing room with sailors sitting on tables and radiators earnestly listening to the service. That not even quiet could be counted upon will be seen from a Worker's account of a service in Texas:

"We had a very splendid service at Travis this morning, there being ten soldiers present. The thing that impressed me was the earnestness of these boys, as there was nothing but the lesson to attract them to this bare corner of the Y. M. C. A. One could look out of a window and see a crowd of boys on a platform receiving instructions in boxing; from another window one saw a couple of privates beating up a week's accumulation of tin cans; off in the distance a band could be heard playing and inside the 'Y' proper a piano was being beaten, followed by a chorus from a crowd of lusty soldiers."

Sometimes there was the most hearty cooperation on the part of welfare workers of other religious organizations to provide a comfortable room for our meetings. One of our Workers mentions the fact that a Y. M. C. A. secretary placed a large vase of flowers on the readers' table shortly before the service, remarking that they would brighten the room a bit.

At a port of embarkation where the services were

held in the Jewish Welfare Board's quarters, the field representative of the latter organization, when a more pretentious home was erected, had special provision made for the Christian Science soldiers to hold their services there. One end of the auditorium was arranged to be partitioned off with folding doors. The first Wednesday evening meeting following the raising of the camp quarantine, however, was held in the cozy reception room of this building, before the fireplace, a Jewish secretary at the desk waving all other callers to a side door opening into the auditorium, in order that the service might not be disturbed. A week or so later the other room was used and it was thronged with men eager to give and hear testimonials. The room was partly filled with wicker furniture, still swaddled in wrapping paper, but the men perched around wherever they could find resting places.

A word must also be said of the services conducted in stockade or prison camps and in hospitals. Of the latter our Worker at Camp Fremont sends an interesting description:

"Seven men from Fremont, including the organist and soloist, went with us and acted as ushers, giving each man who came in a Quarterly and a little Song Book. While we had provided what we considered a generous number of Quarterlies and Song Books, we, in fact, had only about half enough to go around.

"The Chapel was practically filled, there being only about fifteen vacant seats. Several men came in wheel chairs, some on crutches, some with their arms held up by braces, and all clothed in the hospital garb of pajamas and bathrobes. Aside from one nurse, one enlisted man who is a clerk at the hospital, the six civilians who made up our party, and the seven boys who went from Camp Fremont to usher, every

man present was a patient in the hospital,—in all about one hundred and ten.

"Most of them, doubtless, had never attended a Christian Science service or even read Christian Science literature, yet they were very attentive and entered into the singing with a splendid spirit, and throughout the entire service there was no disturbance whatsoever."

At Camp Jackson, as elsewhere, our Worker was requested by the officer in charge of the stockade to conduct a Christian Science service. This was arranged for and the lesson read the first time to about twenty prisoners.

In a German prison camp in Tennessee some forty prisoners of war had been conducting a service in German until the visit of a Camp Welfare Worker. Thereafter it was read in English and in a most creditable manner.

Nothing has yet been said of the meetings held in literally hundreds of places where there was no Camp Worker to supervise and where the men themselves took the entire responsibility for the conduct of the services. In this country they were sometimes brought together through the activity of a visiting Worker. In the border camps in Texas, for instance, this was done in a number of cases. One man who was designated as a "soldier worker" wrote the following interesting letter:

"A few days ago I received a copy of Science and Health, a Manual of The Mother Church and a Bible, direct from the Camp Welfare Committee in Boston. I take this opportunity to convey to you the thanks of a number of boys in this camp who are interested in Christian Science. With the kind help of a Camp Welfare Worker we have been able to come together and are now holding Christian Science services

every Sunday, for which privilege we are all very grateful. The above books have come just in time to meet a need that was beginning to make itself felt.

"We are also very grateful for the plentiful supply of Christian Science literature provided for us through the work of the Christian Science Camp Welfare Committee for Texas. The Monitor is especially appreciated by many of the boys who are not interested in Christian Science, as this paper always contains only reliable news."

Another reports on a service as follows:

"Yes, we held our first service last night (Sunday) and it was a good one too for we held it in the stables near J.'s shack, just four of us."

From another point in Texas comes this:

"Four soldiers in the quarantine barracks of the depot brigade read the lesson together. When they found that they could not get through the lines to attend the regular services at camp they got together and held a service of their own."

The result of this training in camps in this country was made manifest as the time drew nearer for the passage of troops overseas. At the ports of embarkation the Workers met dozens of men who had served as readers at the various camps throughout the country and each of them felt a sense of responsibility in seeing that the work was carried on when the troops arrived in Europe. Quarterlies and little hymnals were asked for and provided in order that the services might be conducted on the transports going over.

One soldier writes:

"Upon my arrival in my final training camp I made inquiries as to whether there were any Scientists or no. I was told there were none. I made up my mind to take my stand,

so at my first opportunity I had published a notice of Christian Science meetings in a Y. M. C. A. hut. Can you imagine my feelings to have waiting for me Sunday morning at 10:15, thirty-two men who had come through a drenching rain to attend our little service? We have held our service every Sunday since then and the average attendance has far exceeded that of the first Sunday. I have given copies of the Bible, Science and Health and Quarterly to over fifty boys. Many new men are becoming interested since the meetings started.

"By the way, a regular religious meeting is held every Tuesday evening at which chaplains, Y. M. C. A. Secretaries, K. of C., Red Cross, and Christian Scientists plan their program for the following Sunday. I am always invited to be present and our notice goes out with the rest, officially stamped. Christian Science is always spoken of very kindly."

One boy who had formerly been First Reader at Camp Logan writes from France:

"We have held services right along and the last one was in a dugout six feet long and four feet high. We sat there, legs all tangled up and I read Science and Health while another sergeant read from the Bible. After that I read a clipping from the Sentinel about the protection afforded a British soldier through the study of Christian Science. Then we went to sleep and were awakened by a shell 'strafe' and gas attack. We came through in good shape as always."

Another writes:

"We haven't missed holding a Sunday service yet and things will have to be pretty hot before we fail to do so. We held two services on the ship on the way over. The first Sunday we were on the very top deck in a lifeboat. We did not pick that out as a spot for refuge or protection but because it had seats in it. The second Sunday we experienced progress as is only natural and to be expected. We were

given permission to use the dining room or officers' mess. There we found a piano and we had a boy who could play our hymns as well as I ever heard them played. I acted as First Reader and Sergeant X. as Second and we had a fine meeting. The first Sunday out two other sergeants did the reading. We had about fifteen present. Wasn't that fine?

"We are holding services over here near a hospital and most of our audiences are made up of wounded men who are dressed in bathrobes and hobble in on crutches. They sure do love our meetings and it is great for us boys to do our part in reading the lesson-sermons and in carrying on the meetings."

From somewhere else in France a soldier writes:

"Many thanks for the Quarterlies. We were hoping for some. We started a little service with six present, held in a tent. A fine service it was too. The following Sunday two more were added. We have written to Paris for information as to the proper way to conduct the services. I am so grateful for these meetings and for the friendship of these boys."

Another writes:

"We had a very nice little service on the ship coming over. Six of us got together in the Y. M. C. A. man's cabin and held it there. Had everything but the hymn and the solo and were all so grateful for the privilege of holding this service in the middle of the sea."

From the same soldier a little later:

"We had a very nice meeting today in a little village. Went out into the woods and read the lesson and had prayer and the closing parts of the service. Had eight or ten present."

From Santo Domingo a marine writes:

"I was greatly in need of the books, as we boys have started to hold meetings every Sunday morning and the

attendance has become so large that it was impossible to get along with one book. We are getting along fine now, and in all the attendance at each meeting is generally about twenty-five. Among the twenty-five there are seven English-speaking Spaniards who seem to have taken a deep interest in the study."

From Egypt a British soldier sends the following:

"Last night I attended a testimony meeting which was held in Mr. A.'s rooms in Alexandria, Egypt. There were about thirty people present and many beautiful testimonies were given."

A lieutenant in France, stationed well up near the front lines, tells this interesting story:

"When I returned to Gondrecourt the problem solved itself. I found three of my sergeant assistant instructors were Scientists, also one Y. M. C. A. lady permanently on duty and one passing through. We all got together, met no opposition at all, published notices of meetings, and held nearly every Sunday morning an informal service, at which Mrs. R. and I acted as Second and First Readers, following the order of our regular service in an informal manner. We never had the same personnel there at every meeting but we always had about twelve present. The spirit and joy expressed by those who had just returned from the lines, all dirty with mud, some slightly shocked, according to material sense, cannot be described. Many had lost their books in the fight and were able to get others, for we always had literature from the War Relief Committee to distribute at these meetings.

"In addition we had a few Wednesday evening testimonial meetings. These could not be held regularly because of the school hours. The testimonies were very vivid and interesting and would leave no doubt in one's mind of the practicality of Christian Science under the most extreme test."

Through the activity of a sergeant, Christian Science services were regularly held at Angers, France. One of the War Relief Workers who had the privilege of attending a Wednesday evening meeting there, describes it as follows:

"It was a memorable service, with workbenches for pews and a soap box with a square board laid across the top for a desk; but the atmosphere was indeed worthy of The Mother Church. The remembrance of the willing mind, obedience, dignity, poise, and gratitude of that service will long be treasured by those having the good fortune to be present. This is the first testimonial meeting ever attended where everyone gave a testimony. There were no pauses and no difficulty in occupying the entire hour and certainly everyone was refreshed with heavenly manna."

In one of the most beautiful spots in France on the Riviera close to the Italian border, lies the little town of Menton, which was opened by the United States Government last December as a leave area. The Y. M. C. A. leased the beautiful and spacious Municipal Casino where a force of thirty-five secretaries entertained an average of two thousand men weekly.

Among the secretaries were four girls who were Christian Scientists and who met together whenever possible, reading the lesson and seeking spiritual guidance for their problems. Several other secretaries, seeing the way seeming difficulties were overcome by these girls, and remarking at the ability of those who were Scientists to stand up under work that to them was taxing and difficult, asked to know something of Christian Science, giving to it the credit and saying that they realized that Scientists had something which they had not. They began to join in the services and

ask for literature, and others remarked at the change which took place in them.

A request to place literature in the library and to post a notice regarding Sunday services was at first denied, but soon after a change was made in the personnel and those placed in charge were favorable to Christian Science and granted the request. Services were held every Sunday morning, at which some soldiers and several "Y" secretaries were always present.

The Christian Science headquarters at Paris supplied Menton "Y" with plenty of literature, and the Monitor particularly always found a warm welcome from the boys in the library, as newspapers were very scarce. A Scientist, one of the women secretaries, was in charge of the information desk for some time, where she had an opportunity of distributing literature. Later this same secretary was transferred to "Mother's Corner" where still better opportunities presented themselves.

This "Y" gained the reputation of having the finest spirit in France and the Scientists stationed there worked hard to establish and preserve the spirit which was characterized by all as one of love and harmony.

A "Y" worker at Chaumont writes:

"During the third week in November, 1918, permission was given to hold Christian Science services in the hut for enlisted men at Chaumont, the General Headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces in France.

"The services were held each Sunday evening in a small classroom in the rear of the hut, by a little band of Scientists. The interest has been continuous and the attendance regular. Each evening, literature furnished by the Christian Science

War Relief Committee in Paris was distributed. Also during the week this literature was placed on the tables in the library of the hut.

"The work has been a great help to those who have been stationed here during the winter, and there have been many who have expressed gratitude for the privilege of attending services while in Chaumont for only a day."

Through the activities of a woman "Y" worker, Christian Science services have also been held at Nice in one of the glass-enclosed jetties which extends out over the sea. Literature was supplied through the Paris office and distributed to the men passing through that rest area.

Services, of which this Committee has no knowledge, were doubtless held in many places in France by individuals and even by groups of men. When one realizes what it means that in ancient France,—whose history dates back to the days of the Romans and the barbarian invasions,—that on this historic soil the seed of Truth was sown broadcast from one end of the land to the other, one feels humbly grateful at the thought of the glorious harvest which will one day be garnered from this fertile field.

In concluding this chapter we quote in part from a letter describing the activity of some Scientists in the Army of Occupation in Germany. The letter, written to our Paris office from Diekirch, Luxembourg, says:

"Several days ago we returned to you the books which you so kindly provided, as this Division is about to embark for home.

"We wish to thank you very much indeed, for the books have afforded opportunities for several to renew their regular studies, and while the existence of the room was not extensively known, yet many found their way there.

"Through this room we learned of a French family who had heard of Christian Science and in sincerity wished to know more of it, and it was our privilege to leave with them a copy of Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy (French and English). They operate a really clean book and newspaper store, and we are confident that this work will bear none other than good fruit.

"We are all glad indeed that we took the step we did here, for it will unquestionably encourage us to take our stand for Truth wherever we may be, that we may become channels for the good tidings of great joy."

Truly we have cause for gratitude that our Leader ordained our impersonal pastors, the Bible and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures to "continue to preach for this Church and the world" (Church Manual, page 58).

"HE SENT HIS WORD"

Probably the greatest service rendered by the Christian Science War Relief Committee was the world-wide distribution of authorized Christian Science literature. Of this literature first of course, is the textbook, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy. In order that men in uniform might have this ever available "Chaplain" always with them, the Trustees under Mrs. Eddy's Will authorized its publication in vest-pocket size in the autumn of 1917. All are now familiar with this beautiful little book, but Christian Science students who have ready access in their homes to the larger editions, can realize but faintly what a joy this compact little volume was to the man in camp, trench, submarine, warship or aeroplane. Says a boy from Honolulu:

"The vest-pocket textbook came at the proper time, yea in due season as Love's gifts ever do. The entire Company is to start on a hundred-mile hike around the island of Oahu and I was just thinking I wouldn't want to be without my Science and Health and yet could not put it into the tight roll with the other necessities—when, as an answer to this prayer of desire, came this handy volume, 'the little book.' "

The Trustees under Mrs. Eddy's Will contributed one-half of the cost of these books and the War Relief Fund of The Mother Church the other half, so that "without money and without price" our textbook was put into the hands of thousands of soldiers. To men in camp and training station, this distribution was effected through the Camp Worker, who endeavored to place the books only where there was a sincere

desire for them and an assurance that they would be highly prized and carefully studied. There were, however, men all over the world, with no Worker to whom they could appeal, who themselves wrote earnest requests to this Committee for a copy of the little book. Among these the following letter from a sailor is perhaps of unusual interest. He says:

"One of my shipmates was sent a vest-pocket edition of the textbook. I have been reading it with deep interest and wish to own one, hence my letter.

"I enlisted from Boston but was brought up and went to school in Concord, New Hampshire, where Mrs. Eddy once lived. As a little boy I used to romp and play close by her home, Pleasant View, and I still remember her kind sweet face as she would ride by in her carriage. Sometimes she would even give us children a ride."

Extracts from a few of the grateful letters received will indicate that the book was indeed sent to the globe's remotest bound, always bearing its message of healing and comfort.

A British soldier writes from Damascus, Syria:

"This is to advise you that the vest-pocket edition of Science and Health and the pamphlets reached me safely and were very much welcomed and appreciated."

An English "Tommy" writes from France:

"I will say that my Science and Health has been with me all the time I have been out here and that my reading a little each day has helped me more than I could ever put into words."

From Saugor, India, we received the following:

"Many thanks indeed for the vest-pocket edition of Science and Health. Also the copy of Quarterly and Song Book as

well, which are much appreciated. They were sent on to me here from Bagdad and arrived in perfect condition."

From London General Hospital, England:

"The soldier's edition of Science and Health came on the 21st and found me in the above-mentioned hospital. . . . The medical men and nurses regularly remark upon the wonderful progress I have made, which I personally attribute more than anything else to my slight knowledge of Science. I am very grateful for the book you sent; it has spoiled all the other so-called literature already."

From Salonica, Greece, a soldier writes:

"I beg to acknowledge with grateful thanks safe receipt of your letter together with vest-pocket edition of Science and Health, Quarterly and Song Book, all of which I am glad to have."

A former theological student in 71st Field Artillery, U. S. A., writes:

"I also wish to attempt to express my appreciation for your kindness in sending the longed-for book, but cannot find words to tell you how thankful I feel."

Writing from Egypt a soldier says:

"I was most grateful last night to receive two copies of the vest-pocket edition of Science and Health and two Quarterlies. One I shall forward to my friend who is now out of the hospital but has not yet come up the line. I may say it is the first gift or parcel I have received at the front and one who is a Christian Scientist could not receive a more welcome package."

A private with the American Expeditionary Forces in France writes:

"I received some few weeks past, the welcome textbook, which has since been a constant and most helpful companion.

I can assure you that through all the hours that might otherwise be darkened, with such a pathfinder, one cannot lose one's self."

Our records show that about 40,000 copies of the vest-pocket textbook were distributed by the Committee, and as soon as this edition of Science and Health began to be widely circulated there was an insistent demand from the men in the field for a small Bible to match. In the summer of 1918, this book was ready for distribution. It was deemed wise to ask those wishing this Bible to pay something towards its cost, and it was therefore provided to those in service for $1.50, the War Relief Fund adding the remainder of the cost. In order, however; that no man should be forced to do without a Bible, the War Relief Committee provided a somewhat larger black cloth edition without charge.

The vest-pocket "kit," as the boys called it, was most heartily appreciated. A Canadian soldier writes: "The Bible I certainly treasure, and coupled with our dear Leader's word it is a wonderful possession." Nearly 16,000 copies of the vest-pocket Bible were purchased by the War Relief Committee for distribution.

Besides the Christian Science textbook and the Bible, all of the authorized literature of The Mother Church was distributed to those in the service without charge. Of the periodicals, that which had the widest circulation was, of course, our daily newspaper, The Christian Science Monitor. It was very extensively distributed throughout the camps of the United States and Europe and soon came to be highly appreciated by those who were not Christian Scientists. This was because the Monitor was recognized

to be a most reliable source of war news and because the men in camps found each copy to be a veritable mine of information on all the important topics of the day. Perhaps the reception which was accorded the Monitor in camps can best be estimated by quoting from an order issued by the Commanding Officer of a large Texas camp:

"The Commanding Officer desires and directs that the special attention of soldiers be called to the paper (The Christian Science Monitor) as a great deal of good, and a great deal of information can be obtained by reading and consulting this paper. Its objects are to give as nearly correct information as possible upon the events of the world, to set forth the best there is in the world, to encourage patriotism, loyalty and attention to duty.

"The action of the Christian Science Association in furnishing this paper to the officers and men of this command is thoroughly appreciated, but the best sign of appreciation is that it be read."

The Monitor was distributed throughout the training camps in various ways. Permission was always secured from the officer highest in command and when this was granted our Worker had the paper delivered to the sergeant in charge of each company for the use of the men under his jurisdiction. In this way the various units in the camp were supplied regularly with several Monitors and those who were not Christian Scientists had the opportunity of reading the paper, if they so desired. Individual subscriptions to men who requested them were also supplied through the Camp Worker. These usually went to men who were Christian Scientists or who at least evinced enough interest to desire their own copy of the paper. Whenever acceptable, the Monitor and other Christian

Science periodicals were placed in the reading and recreation rooms of such organizations as the Y. M. C. A., Red Cross, Jewish Welfare Board, Salvation Army, etc. Possibly some statistics showing approximately the amount of Monitor distribution made by this Committee, will prove of interest at this point. In France and England the Monitor was sent out in much the same way as in the United States, through Workers and War Relief Depots, although necessarily many men had to be reached individually.

The following figures are for September, October and November, 1918, the three most active months of the Committee's existence:

September, 1918

England	159,255
France	45,689
United States and Canada	936,840
United States, Canada and Europe, total	1,141,784

October, 1918

England	128,316
France	65,250
United States and Canada	1,088,541
United States, Canada and Europe, total	1,282,107

November, 1918

England	113,876
France	67,855
United States and Canada	864,008
United States, Canada and Europe, total	1,045,739

For those who receive their copies of the Monitor regularly, it is difficult to realize the joy and enthusiasm which a single copy of our newspaper

brought to men in remote corners of the world. In a letter requesting a subscription to the paper from a soldier in Siberia, he says:

"It may interest you to know that last night I chanced across the Monitor of June 25 (his letter was dated September 29), which I have already read, but which bears rereading. At the moment I am jealously guarding it, as it has merely been loaned to me, and will be passed around when I have finished. Where it came from I do not know, but imagine it was brought on the transport by one of the men."

From France an American soldier wrote:

"I am now in territory that was occupied by the Germans and, as we fellows say, 'away up in the woods.' We are scarcely ever near a town and last Sunday several of us took a hike into the woods looking for what we could find and I was fortunate enough to pick up a copy of the Monitor. I was as glad to get it as a little boy is to get candy."

One of our Workers in this country was pleased to have a burly Canadian veteran come into his office with the remark:

"I saw the sign across the street and thought I would come in. I was at Vimy Ridge and I want to tell you that yours was the only paper the troops received while there. We all used to enjoy reading it, for it is such a fine, clean publication."

To the men with the Army of Occupation in Germany the Monitor has proved of inestimable value. What it meant to one of them is best told in his own words:

"The Monitor is truly doing wonderful things over here for me. It is in short my closest companion, keeping me in touch and acquainted with the outside world. Some of the men are taking courses in the new army schools established

by the government. I have chosen to take my college course through a careful and thorough study of the Monitor. The educational value of the paper is wonderful, covering as it does, in an intelligent way, the sum total of human activities, as well as containing a summary of the highest type of ancient and modern literature. Does not the Monitor whose tutor is Principle furnish us the most wonderful college course we can take in these times? I surely am grateful for the privilege and opportunity of reading it."

The other periodicals were also widely distributed, though not in any such quantity as the Monitor, and were sent naturally to those who had expressed a desire for the religious teaching of Christian Science.

From a lieutenant in a southern camp we received the following:

"A copy of the Christian Science Sentinel mailed by someone to the cantonments of the National Army was handed to me at my barracks and it has afforded me a large measure of interest and pleasure to pore over its pages.

"I have been for some time casually interested in Christian Science and would like to become better acquainted with it. Please place me on your mailing list."

From Vladivostok a prisoner wrote:

"I have got by accident an old number of The Christian Science Journal in which I have read surprising things. Desiring to know the Christian Science please send me any number of your Journals and pamphlets. . . . I am a Hungarian and have learnt English in my imprisonment, and so I beg your pardon for the incorrectness of my letter. I know German better but I think to write English more proper."

A subscription to *Le Héraut de Christian Science* was sent in response to the following letter from a French soldier:

"I pray you to excuse my bad English. I should be glad to read your magazine and even books about Christian Science—we do not know it well in France—if somebody among your readers was kind enough to send me free some of them.

"I am now wounded for the second time and I must stay at bed. Your magazine or books would help me to pass the long hours I must spend and to wait the day I shall be able to return to the front again."

Besides the periodicals, the War Relief Committee distributed thousands of pamphlets on Christian Science. These little messengers of Truth could be slipped into a letter and they literally became leaves of healing to all the nations of the earth. Postal regulations prohibited the sending of packages to men with the American army in France, but these handy little booklets could always be included in a letter and were invariably much appreciated.

Selected at random from correspondence sent to this Committee, the following list of places outside of the United States will give some idea of the widespread distribution of our Christian Science literature to men in the service. Sometimes a textbook, sometimes a Sentinel, Journal or Monitor, sometimes a pamphlet was sent, but it was always the word of God of which the Psalmist said, "Their line is gone out through all the earth."

Canada
Newfoundland
Alaska
Hayti
Cuba
Canal Zone
Virgin Islands
Samoa
England
Scotland
Ireland
Belgium
France
Switzerland

Italy	Gibraltar
Prisoners in Germany	Egypt
China	Trinidad
Japan	Bermuda
Philippine Islands	Jamaica
Hawaiian Islands	India
Australia	South Africa
New Zealand	West Africa
Bulgaria	Russia
Macedonia	Salonica
Tunis	Syria
Malta	Palestine

We are all familiar with the Quarterly in the vest-pocket size but probably do not appreciate it as thoroughly as this English soldier who wrote:

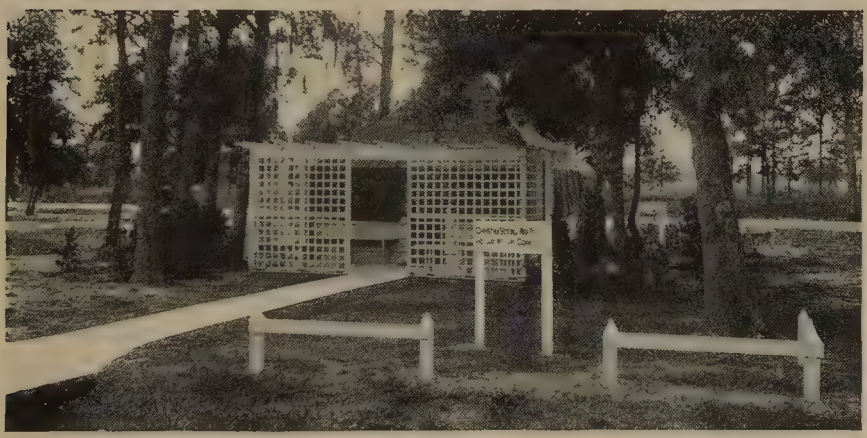
"It gave me great pleasure to receive the little Christian Science Quarterly you so kindly sent me, and you may be sure that it will be put to good use. It is further evidence of the immeasurable good performed in this world by our Leader."

Mention must also be made of the small Song Book printed in vest-pocket size for the use of those in service. It was a selection of hymns taken from the Christian Science Hymnal and arranged for male voices, including all of Mrs. Eddy's hymns and a number of other well-known ones, especially those which are particularly helpful to a Christian warrior.

In connection with these little books, which met a most cordial reception everywhere, one of our Workers tells this interesting incident:

"One Sunday evening as I was passing the stockade I asked permission of the Prison Officer to offer each of the prisoners a copy of our Song Book. He looked it over care-

Christian Science War Relief Rooms, Chicago, Illinois



A Tent Room, Camp Logan, Texas

Inside view Welfare Tent, Camp Logan, Texas

fully, gave his consent, and sent a guard with me into the stockade. All but four men accepted the book. Then something occurred that never happened there before. Someone found 'Nearer my God to Thee' and began to sing it. In less than a minute there was a great male chorus singing that hymn."

Large numbers of our Song Books were supplied, at their request, to Y. M. C. A. workers, Song Directors, and other persons interested in encouraging the men to sing.

It would, of course, be quite impossible to recount in full the results accomplished by the Christian Science literature sent out by the War Relief Committee, or to quote from even a small number of the letters of gratitude received from recipients of this literature. Let one suffice to show what was done for a soldier in California to whom a copy of the vest-pocket textbook was given by one of our workers.

"I wish to thank the Christian Science Camp Welfare Committee for placing in my hands 'Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures' by Mrs. Eddy. I had suffered with kidney trouble for sixteen years and now by studying the little book and asking God to help me I have been healed in thirty days' time."

WITH THE FORCES AFLOAT

The naval man's life differs from the soldier's in its greater restrictions. It possesses less variety in pastimes and associations. Often long periods elapse between his "shore liberty" and his touch with home ties. Indeed, contact with the normal life and daily affairs of the civilian or even of his army brother, is denied him. That the Christian Science War Relief Committee early recognized the need in the United States Navy and developed its naval Welfare work accordingly, was but a natural unfoldment.

The New Jersey Committee, its army Welfare work only begun, probably realized this when urgent request for the Committee's good offices came to them from within the navy itself. An officer in command of a ship, fitting out in a commercial yard in Hoboken, appealed to the State Committee in the interest of his crew. Hoboken had not then become the great embarkation point that it very soon did, though there was ample evidence of the Government's intention. There were no activities, as later, for the benefit of enlisted personnel, and there was sore need for some provision for those attached to ships. The response to this officer's request was prompt, and there was quickly opened a well-fitted and comfortable Welfare Room. The location of this room was close to the piers which were destined to become the great embarkation headquarters and docks, and adjacent to the then just established shipping rooms of the American Library Association. The cordial relations existing from the start between those in charge of the American Library Association and the Committee, opened the

way for our Leader's writings to go overseas in each portable library shipped by the Association. This room at Hoboken at once met a need and was much appreciated by naval officers and men. Here was carried on an increasingly effective and important work, the room becoming not only a veritable haven for hundreds of lonely, homesick men, but a contact point and literature distributing center for the immense overseas forces which soon began to embark at this port.

The New Jersey room was the first organized naval work. The idea developed so rapidly, however, that early in April, 1918, a naval representative was appointed and sent from Boston to secure proper official recognition for Christian Science War Relief Workers and to establish naval work through a distribution of the Monitor on the vessels of the Fleet. The United States Fleet, in war time, is perhaps the most difficult of places for a civilian to gain an entrance. Uncle Sam guards all his property with care, but special precaution is exercised to protect the forces afloat. When the order was issued to mobilize the Fleet, all ship-visiting by non-military persons was strictly prohibited. Even the bases selected for mobilization were inaccessible without authority emanating from the Commander-in-Chief. Civilians were frowned upon and were always objects of suspicion. Thus it may be seen that when the War Relief Committee decided to extend its already well-established Camp Welfare work to the naval arm of the service, it did so, knowing that there is no barrier to Truth.

There was a primary and a secondary base used by the Fleet in home waters, the primary one being secret and located on the York River, off historical York-

town. Its scant local population and remoteness from railroad connections made it an ideally isolated rendezvous. Here, behind lines of heavy submarine nets lay a constantly changing force of from forty to fifty major ships of the line with a personnel approximating fifty thousand officers and men.

Getting in touch at once with the Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet, the representative of the War Relief Committee, especially appointed for this purpose, was invited to a conference on the flagship, where the aims and the method of our work were laid before those in authority. So satisfactory were the plans outlined that this Worker was granted general and unrestricted permission to board any ship or unit under the supervision of the Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet, and was also given passes good in specified localities for assistants.

Within a week the first assistant was detailed to care for the ships at Yorktown and had his pass ready to begin operations. Though the Worker's pass permitted him the use of the Fleet's tenders or launches, it was felt by the Admiral's Chief of Staff that he would be more valuable and have a broader opportunity if provided with a boat of his own. The advisability of this was soon realized by both the Committee's special representative and the Worker, and efforts were bent towards finding a suitable launch. The boat known as "Welfare First" more than fulfilled expectations and the Scientist sent from Boston to operate it soon developed into a much-needed second Worker.

Welfare I was 35 feet in length, had a beam of 8 feet, and a draft of 2½ feet. Her engine was a 2-cycle, 2-cylinder Mianus, 15 horsepower, fully equipped with

storage battery, generator, interior electric lights, and had a 14-foot cabin with a full equipment of life preservers, a painter, anchor, flag, boat-hook, etc.

Welfare I and Welfare II, subsequently purchased, were used for exactly the same purpose as automobiles in the camps. Of Welfare I the Worker writes:

"Daily she carried me out to the ships and around them. I always had some of the Comforts articles aboard and gave away from her decks altogether over 1100 articles, including 135 bedquilts, 420 pairs of socks and 350 sweaters. During the last month I operated her, she visited 226 ships, and I gave away personally on those ships nearly 10,000 copies of the Monitor, not including subscriptions.

"Welfare I visited the Hospital ship *Solace* every day and I had permission to go through all the wards and did so, giving away many Monitors. I always visited the neighboring lighthouses supplying them with literature. Three times a week we ran to the submarine nets at the mouth of the York River and furnished the fleet of chasers with literature.

"You can imagine it was strenuous work to take 100 to 150 Monitors under your arm, and, standing on the front deck, with spray and water breaking around your knees, run up to a gangway in a heavy sea, and just step aboard at the right instant, but I did it without mishap hundreds of times."

The secondary base was maintained at Hampton Roads, where, in addition to auxiliary vessels, convoys and transports, foreign ships and many merchantmen anchored, and major ships from Yorktown came more or less regularly for brief stays. A submarine base up the Chesapeake and an outlying army post on Fisherman's Island, near Cape Charles, needed care from this base. The second Worker was now appointed, and another and larger boat known as "Welfare Second" was provided for service.

Welfare II was 46 feet long, with a beam of 14 feet and a draft of 5 feet. Her engine was a 3-cylinder, 2-cycle Kahlenberg, of 27 horsepower. She had four rooms, with a galley forward under deck, containing oil stoves, water tanks and a full set of cooking utensils. There were also berths for two men in the galley. Next came the pilot house, then the engine room. The cabin was well furnished with rugs, easy-chairs, a desk and berths. Welfare II was used for the naval work in and about Hampton.

Not long after Welfare I was purchased, the Worker wrote:

"You will be interested to know that the launch is becoming increasingly useful. Last night she carried an officer across the river after the ferry had stopped running for the night. Today, while I was aboard one of the battleships I noticed that the recreation party that was bound for the shore could not all get into the ship's launches. There were about forty very disappointed boys. One of them was a Scientist to whom I had been talking. I asked him what was the trouble and he said that they were only allowed three hours on shore and that he and the rest of the forty would lose most of that time because they would have to wait until the launches made a return trip, about three miles each way. I went to the officer of the deck and offered the use of our launch. He took the matter up with the Captain who accepted with thanks, and in a few minutes the whole forty were on board arriving very shortly after the first party. Going over I gave each boy a copy of the Monitor to read. I might add that in the party was the ship's baseball team and they commented highly on the Sporting page of the Monitor. 'Henry' in the camp sometimes used to carry eight or nine boys but his sister 'Henrietta' has him beaten. She is 'some jitney' according to the boys."

Authority was also obtained from the British Admiralty office for the boarding of British vessels, which included a pass for the Worker.

The headquarters for the naval work at Yorktown and Hampton Roads was established at Hampton, Virginia, which served not only as an office, but as a Welfare Room for men from convoys and other ships, and for the soldiers from Langley Field and Fortress Monroe.

Transports leaving Hampton Roads docked for embarkation of troops at Newport News, Virginia, and the naval work was soon extended to these vessels. Like the Fleet, access to transports and transport docks appeared almost an impossibility, so strictly enforced were the regulations regarding civilians. The transport service, too, was under joint army and naval officials. The initial authority only permitted the placing of Monitors on board, to be distributed by a member of the ship's crew, and access to either docks or ships by our Worker was not looked upon with favor. So quickly was the value of the literature appreciated, that the Committee was soon granted an unrestricted pass to the docks and transports. This not only permitted the Worker to go on board daily with the Monitors, but gave him the unusual privilege of distributing papers and other literature, after the troops were embarked. This was the first transport work.

The largest embarkation point, however, was Hoboken, New Jersey. Here a very efficient work was accomplished. A daily distribution of the Monitor to the transports while in port was maintained, and so well did the New Jersey Committee demonstrate their way, and so grew the demand for the Monitor

and other literature, that one Worker soon proved insufficient, and several were finally necessary to care for the transports alone. This distribution and relief work were extended to vessels leaving New York, and an extensive activity had been established when the armistice was signed.

It is scarcely necessary to give in detail the excellent work accomplished at the various shore stations. There were few places, ashore or afloat, where the cooperation of the naval authorities was not of the most generous and friendly order. Especially was this true at Newport, Rhode Island, Norfolk, Virginia, and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In citing these specifically, no injustice is intended to officials at other points where a keen appreciation of the Welfare work was also shown. The value of the work at Newport, Rhode Island, was evidenced by the appreciation of it expressed by the naval officials at the Training Station. One has only to talk with any man confined in the hospital during the epidemic to understand the value of the tireless work, with "signs following" accomplished there. The entrée to the hospital, in itself, was something for which to be grateful.

In Norfolk, Virginia, a very active distribution committee had laid a fine foundation for an effective work at the several naval establishments. This pioneer effort enabled the War Relief Committee quickly to build an extensive Welfare work. The naval operating base, comprising a training station second only to the Great Lakes Training Station near Chicago, a flying school and hospital, was in itself a large field for work. Added to this was the navy yard across the river, and other smaller scattered bases or units. One Worker began caring for all, but so rapidly did the

activity unfold that the naval operating base alone required the entire time of a Worker. The appreciation of the Monitor and other periodicals was expressed in a constantly increasing demand for subscriptions and an early request for services. Much interest was shown in Christian Science in the hospitals at the operating base, and many textbooks were requested. As at other points, healings resulted and gratitude and recognition followed.

The Great Lakes Naval Training Station was one of the three largest in the country and the need for an experienced Worker at this point was soon supplied. As the work of the Camp Welfare Committee progressed, services were established which were well attended by the men interested in Christian Science, readers being selected from among their number. The good accomplished through these services proved itself during the epidemic of fear, called influenza, which later invaded the station. The services proved efficacious to the men, not only in keeping their own thought clear, but in helping others to overcome their fear. Many men were healed without having to be removed to the hospital and others were able through their understanding of Truth, to work among those afflicted without manifesting any symptoms of disease, thus proving Christian Science to be preventive as well as therapeutic.

At Boston a large naval field, both shore units and ships, was well cared for; and New York also reached the shore stations and ships in that vicinity. Maine was not neglectful of the navy men touching at her ports, and the Philadelphia Navy Yard was one of our busiest distribution centers. Charleston, South Carolina, saw that literature was not lacking on ves-

sels leaving there and the men at her navy yard found a helpful friend in the Worker. At Mobile, Alabama, many British warships were supplied with our literature, as well as were our own boats landing at that port. San Francisco discovered that the navy was not easy of access, but once admitted, received assistance and found quick appreciation of its work. The Washington State Committee maintained a Worker, whose entire time was devoted to the navy yard at Bremerton, near Seattle. The work here was productive of the most gratifying results and secured the entire appreciation and cooperation of the officers.

The work at the Portsmouth Navy Yard was the last to unfold and little is known of it. Therefore it will be spoken of in some detail. The variety and diversity of the units at this point rendered the work somewhat different from that of the other shore stations. The navy yard proper comprised the usual number of ships, coming and going, a large hospital, a marine camp, and the large naval prison. The latter had a population of twenty-four hundred men during the war. A naval Worker arrived in Portsmouth, at the time the so-called influenza was at its height. Upon reporting to the Commandant, it was learned that the hospital was congested, and there was a shortage of nurses, due to sickness and recent detachments, creating a serious situation. The services of the Worker were volunteered and accepted, and in the hospital spiritual work was combined with the material care of sick nurses and men in the influenza wards. Wards of terror-stricken men, witnessing the death of comrades, were calmed and encouraged, and many patients thought to be very ill were found up and dressed the following day. Sick nurses stopped

taking medicine and in some cases requested the textbook. The death rate at once diminished and in twenty-four hours reached the zero mark.

Visits to the prison wards in the hospital led later on to "follow-up" work in the prison itself. The response to the truth was so great and the need so evident, that the effort to divide the time equally between the different units was finally abandoned, the prison becoming the scene of the Worker's greatest activity and the hospital being given such time as remained. Unlike most penal institutions, men in the naval prison number few criminals, most of the offenses being of a military character and not punishable by a civil court. Scarcely more than boys, many are mere youths who entered the service in a burst of patriotism, with an undeveloped sense of responsibility and unfortunately no great appreciation of the importance of obedience. Here is more ignorance than viciousness; more thoughtlessness than deliberate disobedience. The effect of a prison sentence upon this type of undisciplined, independent American young manhood, without a knowledge of real obedience and right government, and a true understanding of freedom, was distressing in the extreme, to put the case mildly. Here, therefore, was an opportunity to demonstrate practically that the truth does make free, opening prison doors. Soon some of these young men by reading the textbook for which they had themselves asked, found their real freedom, even before gaining release from confinement. The bettering of positions in the prison was the rule with the men who became earnestly interested in Science. Services soon followed the regular Monitor distribution. When the work was first started the Commanding Officer expressed to the

Worker the desire that services be reestablished. They had twice before been held at the prison but had been allowed to lapse. It was considered, however, wiser that the demonstration of services be made within the prison. This was done. Within three weeks a list of thirty names of men who desired to attend Christian Science services was given to the Worker. A large percentage of the men who expressed this desire, and who further became interested, have since been discharged from the prison. The attendance at each service was always excellent and steadily increased, followed by numerous requests for the textbook, for literature and for talks with the Worker. Services were held in the prison Y. M. C. A. building. From the first, the work of the Christian Science War Relief Committee was generously recognized at this station, and cordial cooperation was extended by the naval authorities in every unit. Perhaps no finer recognition of Christian Science could have been accorded than that made by the prisoners themselves, and upon their own initiative, when the Worker was made an Honorary Member of the Mutual Welfare League and presented with the insignia. The League is a branch of the association for self-government formed by Thomas Mott Osborne in Auburn and Sing Sing prisons. The Christian Science work was considered of such value by the Commanding Officer of the prison that it was his desire, upon the resignation of the pioneer Worker, that a resident Worker be established at the prison, to live and be associated at all times with the prisoners. The Committee appointed a man for this position.

"Monday night I came into the prison as a prisoner and received my clothes (gray stripes)," he writes. "I

have been assigned to a cell with a man who deserted from his ship." Through the interest and cooperation of the Commanding Officer our Worker was soon given an office where he could interview the men and keep his supplies of literature and knitted goods.

To tell in any detail the assistance rendered to the men in the prison would make a long story. Cases of rheumatism, stricture, influenza, mental unbalance, cocaine habit, and venereal diseases are among the dark images of disease which have vanished before the sunlight of Truth. Depression, discouragement and despair have been lifted for many a man and he has been encouraged to go out, when discharged, to make a fresh start. Our Worker found several boys who felt their position to be such a disgrace that they had ceased to write to their families. Through his efforts letters were sent home. In one case a boy found in the "sick-bay" asked for Christian Science treatment. He then told our Worker of a sister who was a Scientist to whom he had not written for a long time. The good news sent her about her brother brought an immediate response and shortly after the boy himself wrote his sister a most loving letter. In another case a mother who had been sending her letters to an incorrect address, and consequently receiving no reply, was put in touch with her son. Our Worker endeavored to secure employment for those receiving their discharges and in one case was instrumental in sending a boy suffering from mental trouble back to his family for care and protection. The father wrote:

"I am certainly grateful to know that you found my boy and gave him a helping hand. I understand you found him

reading Science and Health. Good, that is the only religion he knows anything of."

Allotments to the home folks were straightened out. In one case arrears amounting to $500 were located. A lost Liberty Bond was restored. A boy who had lost all trace of his family, not even knowing his mother's present name, was put in touch with them, and a home is waiting for him when he cares to go to it. Our literature has, of course, been widely distributed and much appreciated.

Possibly the best evidence of the gratitude felt for our work is the following, cut from the *Mutual Welfare News,* the prison paper:

"The Mutual Welfare League takes this opportunity to express its thanks to the Christian Science War Relief Committee in general and its representative at this place in particular, for the great kindness and Christian charity that was demonstrated in giving to thirty of our discharged men overcoats to keep them comfortable. In addition to the above Mr. F. has neglected no chance to be of comfort or service to such of us as have been bereaved by loss of parents or friends, whenever the fact has come to his attention. He has exerted himself to the utmost to learn our prison routine that he might advise newcomers and prove the most good that was possible to all hands. Not content with donning grays, he has even spent a period in Third Class, that he might know exactly the conditions that exist there and elsewhere through the prison. For all this we thank him and we want him to know that his efforts are deserving of far greater thanks than our poor language can convey."

V

WITH THE A. E. F. IN FRANCE

In the spring and early summer of 1918, war-weary France had almost reached the limit of its endurance. Its army, with those of its allies, had for weeks been forced backward and ever backward. By late May only the most stout-hearted of those still remaining in the capital felt confident that Paris would escape German occupation, and many feared a far worse fate. Bombarded by day and bombed by night, the Parisian certainly did not lack variety, at least in the round of daily experience.

Into this tense situation at about ten o'clock one evening during the latter part of May there came a party of ten American Christian Scientists. This group had landed at Bordeaux two days previous from the steamer *La Lorraine,* and constituted a group of authorized workers sent to France to aid in relief work among the French war sufferers and to extend to Christian Scientists in the army and navy such assistance as was considered proper under the military regulations.

This party was chosen in April and, excepting two persons who were unable to reach Boston, assembled in that city early in May, where the members were instructed regarding their work as far as this was possible. They also had the advantage of conferences with the Christian Science Board of Directors and with the representative who had been sent overseas by

the Board earlier in the year to make a preliminary investigation of conditions in France and to report back with recommendations. His experience and counsel now proved of great value.

On May 11, the State Department approved and issued the necessary passports. In conversations with the Department at this time, the Committee was assured that any War Relief work it might engage in would be acceptable. At the same time it was pointed out that all Welfare work in the army camps had already been delegated to certain authorized agencies, and work abroad similar to that then being done by us in the American camps, was inadvisable. Applications for passports having originally contained the statement that our work abroad was to be that of Camp Welfare, it became necessary to modify our plans, and the party finally sailed on May 14 from the port of New York, recognized and authorized by the State Department as Christian Science War Relief Workers. Neither the members of this party nor of those constituting the third one to cross, reckoning the Board's earlier representatives as the first party, were thereafter, at any time, able to carry on a work in any large degree comparable to that done in the camps and cantonments of the United States, as related elsewhere. With the full approval, however, of the State Department and the military authorities in France, these workers established and maintained in ten important centers in France, accessible at all times to many men in the service, depots or Christian Science headquarters. From these depots there went out in ever increasing measure messages of health and courage, inspiring books and helpful literature. To them

Welfare First

Welfare Second

also came in a correspondingly increasing ratio, calls for assistance of various kinds from the many hundreds of Christian Scientists in the service. By adopting this plan of organization and method of work the Committee was able, with the numerically small group of helpers at its command, to render a remarkably efficient service and at the same time comply with the requirements of the French and American military authorities.

Both the authorities referred to at all times displayed the most generous and cordial spirit of cooperation. For example, instead of sharing with many other war workers the not uncommon experience of being delayed in Paris for weeks, while necessary travel and residence permits were slowly going through the mills of official red tape, the party was at work within ten days. This group was thus quickly established and at widely separated points, while the experience of the September party was equally satisfactory.

The succeeding pages of this chapter deal in detail with the establishment of the work and its conduct at the ten depots already mentioned. Beginning with the work at Langres, the capital of the Department of the Haute-Marne, where several important American military colleges were maintained throughout the war, the story will close with a record of the work done at Romorantin, the great aircraft production center, which was the last depot to be opened and the first to close. The work at Langres was undertaken as early as March, 1918, by one of the two representatives first sent to France by the Board of Directors. Next, the rooms in Paris were selected and the work of getting

them in shape began. These rooms, located at 3 *Avenue de l'Opéra,* at the head of probably the best known, and certainly one of the most important streets in Paris, were intended to be the headquarters of the Committee in France. They were commodious and well-appointed and served not only as official headquarters but also as an active book and literature distribution center and as a home for the many Science boys who visited Paris or were located there. Within a stone's throw of the Louvre and the Palais Royal, these rooms were situated near some of the most historic spots in France. Other depots were soon in operation in the order named, at Tours, Bordeaux, Brest, and St. Nazaire, and these were followed in September by others, at Nantes, Nevers, Le Mans and Romorantin.

LANGRES

Langres, an old Roman town with a history antedating the Christian era and a population of approximately 10,000 people, lies about 250 kilometers southeast of Paris. It is situated on the crest of a magnificent hill which dominates the countryside for many miles. In the distance can be seen the Swiss Alps, with Mont Blanc sometimes visible, and from the other side one sees the valley of the Marne, and the silver thread of the river whose name is linked with so much glorious bravery and stupendously heroic effort.

On the direct line of communication with the front, and about halfway between Chaumont, General Pershing's headquarters, and Dijon, this city was one of the most important centers of American military activity in all France. Langres has been called "The

West Point of France." Twenty-nine military schools were located there, among which were the following: Army General Staff College, Army School of the Line, Army School of Intelligence, Army Gas School, Army Candidate School, Army Machine Gun School, Anti-Aircraft School, Army Tank Center.

Langres being in direct communication with the front, day and night there was a constant stream of convoys from Dijon, where the great bakery was located, which sent 20,000 loaves of bread a day to the soldiers in the trenches, and from Bordeaux and other seaports where troops and supplies from the United States were unloaded and sent on. In Langres also was located the Motor Transport Corps, a small city in itself, with thousands of trucks, camions and automobiles constantly coming and going to and from the front lines. Troop trains filled with both American and French soldiers were hourly arriving and departing, besides which large numbers of men daily marched through the streets. Here were also the Headquarters of the Advance Section under a Brigadier-General with his staff and a large corps of officers.

Six hospitals were located at Langres, among which were: Base Hospital No. 53, with 200 nurses and 40 physicians and surgeons, and accommodations for 2000 patients; Base Hospitals No. 22, No. 23, No. 24; Camp Hospital No. 7, at Humes, a near-by small town; and Camp Hospital No. 10, at Prauthoy. These camp hospitals were not as large as the base hospitals, but they had a great many nurses and doctors and were always full of patients. At one time the hospital at Humes was filled with men who had been gassed.

With the permission of the Brigadier-General in command, our first woman worker in France went to Langres in March, 1918, although all civilians were strictly barred from this sector, which was in the advance zone. The rest of the story of the activity at Langres is quoted from one of her reports:

"We held services in the Officers' Club during the months of April and May. In the meantime I had been looking for a permanent place for our room, but as Langres is such a small city and was so crowded with American officers and soldiers, it seemed to be a difficult thing to find any suitable place. Finally a vacant building was found which the 'Y' had formerly used, but which had stood idle for some months. I secured the large front room on the upper floor. This building is situated on rue Diderot, the main street of Langres, just across from the Grand Hôtel de l'Europe. The room had four large windows on the front which made it bright and cheery and was furnished in light colors, blue and yellow. We had large wicker chairs, two handsome carved tables for the literature, a good piano, a large davenport, other smaller chairs, and white writing tables. The woodwork was white; we kept the floors polished, and through the summer the room was filled with flowers. Many tired soldier boys, just back from battle, would come in, sink down with a sigh, look around and say: 'Oh, it is so clean, so like home. It's the prettiest place in France.' "

"The Monitor was placed in the wards of the big hospital, the Commanding Officer saying that he was delighted to have it, and the head nurse, who has a copy of Science and Health and attends our services, took charge of its distribution. Bundles of Monitors were tied up and placed on the piano in our room, so that a man coming in could help himself. And the small copies of Science and Health—how the boys did love them and how eager they were to get them—also the Bibles.

"We held our Sunday service at 2.30 in the afternoon, as

Christian Science War Relief Room near Camp Grant, Illinois

Near Great Lakes, Illinois

A homey room at Newport News, Virginia

many of the men were busy in the morning, and others were out quite a distance and could not get in before that time. The attendance varied, as the troops were constantly changing, but it averaged from thirty to forty-five. The room was generally full of earnest, thoughtful men, eager to hear the Word of God. The congregation was made up from all ranks of the army, Generals, Colonels and all classes of other officers and numbers of enlisted men. These mingled and talked together in a way that is only possible through Christian Science. We were most fortunate about our music. During the whole time we had a solo singer—once or twice boys with really remarkable voices, and the solo added much to the service and was enjoyed and appreciated by all.

"We held our testimonial meeting after the service. This was found advisable, as otherwise many men, who could not come in at any other time, would have been deprived of this meeting. Some very thrilling and interesting testimonies were given, which were certainly proofs of God's protecting care.

"There were many calls for help for all sorts of diseases—Spanish influenza, dysentery, drunkenness, sensuality, smoking, rheumatism, men who had been gassed, those who had been wounded and were in the hospital, etc. In many cases the men were directed to the use of the Concordances. One case of influenza was healed in this way and the young man told me afterwards that he had had a fear of tuberculosis for many years, which had left him at this time.

"In September, 1918, the War Relief Committee sent 2500 francs to be presented to the Mayor for the relief of the refugees or other victims of the war who were in Langres. The Mayor received us with a great deal of ceremony in his office, the General's aide going as interpreter. The letter was read with great care and attention and other officials were called in to hear it. The Mayor was most profuse in his thanks and said if at any time he could help in the work he would be very glad to do so. During the interview he was asked to correct, if possible, an impression that had gone out in the

city that the Christian Science War Relief Committee was in Langres for the purpose of conducting a proselyting campaign. This he promptly agreed to do.

"A few days later the Town Crier, who is a very imposing figure, wearing a great deal of gold braid, and who is preceded by a man with a trumpet which he blows loudly to call crowds of people together, went through the streets announcing that the Christian Science War Relief Committee had beneficently given the sum of 2500 francs to the war victims of Langres. The weekly edition of the paper of the city contained the same announcement and also a statement from the Mayor giving the object of our work and saying that we had no intention of interfering with the religious customs or beliefs of the people of Langres.

"About three miles from our Reading Room, down at the foot of the hill, are the Casual Barracks. The men who came in there were often just out of the hospitals, or were changing trains, and had no time or strength to climb the long hill to the Reading Room. They were fed and there were bunks in which they could sleep, but it was a dismal, cold, muddy place, in spite of the efforts of the fine young officer who was in charge. He often came into the Reading Room uptown and so admired its color and warmth and cheer that he said one day, 'Oh, if I could have something like this down at the barracks for the men who pass through there.'

"About that time some new barracks were being built at the Casual Camp, and with the consent of the Commanding General we took one of the larger rooms, one sixty feet long, and began our work. The men stained the rafters and ceiling and covered the walls with raphia. This is a pongee-colored material which the men at the Camouflage station gave us. They built a big twelve-foot fireplace in the center of the side wall. One of the boys made a couch sixteen feet long, which we upholstered and covered with tapestry. We also had six smaller couches around the wall, at intervals, so that the boys could lie down if they were tired. On these we put mattresses

and the fine blankets they have in the army. We also built four writing desks. There were twelve small windows in the room at which were hung rose-colored sateen curtains, and the effect against the clean raphia was very attractive. I also made two rose-colored cushions for each couch and for the davenport and bought a rose-colored upholstered chair. This all added color to the room and made it bright and cheerful. Moreover, I found an American rocking chair which was a real delight to the boys, as rocking chairs are unknown in France. I took down a long hardwood table, which I was able to rent, and a good piano, like the one we had in the Reading Room. Some bright posters were hung on the wall and over the fireplace the head of Lincoln with some of his immortal words. We used to put big logs on the hearth, on which the boys would pour crude oil. This made a great blazing fire and to the poor, tired, mud-bedraggled boys coming in out of the wet and cold and mud, there was a glow of cheer and warmth and comfort about it which was very appealing. One boy said to me, 'When I opened this door and looked in, coming as I did from the mud and rain, I thought I had caught a glimpse of heaven.'

"On the long tables were copies of the Monitor, Journal and Sentinel, and also some other current magazines. On a side table I had Mrs. Eddy's writings and the Bible, and the writing tables were furnished with our letter paper. The boys were always most grateful for the stationery and a quiet place in which to write. On the table was a low reading lamp, and there were colored shades on the electric lights.

"As there were from 500 to 3000 men passing through these barracks each day, I found many who were interested in Science and who were delighted to get the literature. A letter from the lieutenant in charge follows, showing his appreciation of the room.

" 'As my service as Commanding Officer of the Casual Camp here seems to be near an end, I am going to write you this letter of appreciation now, lest I forget to tell you what

a great favor you have done the boys who have had to stop at this camp.

" 'Usually Casuals are in anything but a pleasant frame of mind and the very word "Casual Camp" is a bugbear to them. But thanks to your efforts in getting the many things for furnishing the Rest Room here, many thousands of boys have had a pleasant place to write letters, papers and magazines to read, a piano to play and a nice fireplace with a bully fire to gaze at and perhaps see visions of their homes back in the dear old U. S. A.

" 'I take great pleasure in thanking you for a kind and unselfish service rendered to the men of the A. E. F. who have had the benefits of your devotion to a good cause.'

"We had a wonderful time at Christmas. There were several boys who were artists and decorators, and they took great pleasure in the decoration of our rooms. Down at the Casual Barracks we had a big Christmas tree and holly wreaths. There was a dinner for the boys who came through that day and the Y. M. C. A. gave them each a package.

"In the Reading Room the decorations were lovely. We made long ropes of boxwood and hung it in festoons through the middle of the room. We fashioned two large wreaths of the same for the side walls. In the front windows we hung large wreaths of holly; the best one of all we put over our picture of The Mother Church. It was very difficult to get holly—no one had any—but the old Frenchwoman, in the house where I lived in the summer time, gave me all the holly from one tree which was in the garden. In this way there was enough to make wreaths for the two rooms, our Reading Room and the one at the Casual Barracks. We had a big basket of it on the piano and some on the tables, and we kept up a blazing fire in the fireplace and everyone who came in exclaimed over the beauty of it all.

"Some of the boys asked me if they might invite some of the other men at the barracks up to the room for New Year's Eve, as they were lonely and had no other place to go. Of

course I said yes, and we had a real party! One of the men had received some pop corn from the United States, which was a great treat, as they do not have it in France. Besides this, they made a big bucket of chocolate, had sandwiches, and roasted chestnuts in the open fire. Some boys from the Glee Club came up and played and sang, and we all sang some of our hymns. Then we sat around in the firelight (our gas went out at nine o'clock) and told stories. It was a most enjoyable time and they were all so appreciative and said they would never forget their New Year's Eve in the Christian Science Reading Room.

"The demobilization began along after Christmas, the Army Schools being gradually closed, and the outlying forts evacuated. This was not done all at once, and our congregation kept up right along, averaging about thirty men each service. This continued through January and February and the Room was finally closed the first of March, 1919."

TOURS

Tours, with a population of about 100,000, is one of the most remarkable and interesting old cities of France. In peace times it is frequented by visitors of all nations because it is the center of the famous château district of the Loire where much of the early history of France was made, and because it is here that the celebrated St. Martin established the Abbey St. Martin which played such an important part in the history of Europe. It was to this Abbey that all the kings of Europe were wont to repair with rich offerings for benisons upon their projected activities, good and bad. Here also the monks of the Abbey St. Martin and of the Abbey of the Marmoutiers plied the art of bookmaking, and in the library at Tours are some of the finest specimens of these early manuscripts.

The normal population of Tours was swelled to about 140,000 during the war, by American soldiers and refugees. Tours was established as the headquarters of the Service of Supply for the American army early in 1917. This branch of the army, being as necessary to the pursuance of war as the army of combat, caused Tours to become practically the most important city of France from the viewpoint of the American army.

The famous American salvage plant was established here, employing thousands of refugees and saving millions of dollars a week to the Americans. Railway lines running directly to the headquarters of the army of combat were established, the large central prison camp for German prisoners was located here, and an elaborate system of telephones was installed, superior to anything previously existing in France. Many barracks belonging to the French were leased by the Americans and entire hotels were taken over by our Government for the use of officers and American women serving in clerical capacities for the army.

At this important point a Christian Science War Relief Depot was established in June, 1918, with two Workers, a man and his wife. After much searching exactly the right house was found for our purposes, described as follows in the words of the Worker:

"In front of the house is a flower garden about 25 feet square, filled with all kinds of flowers that have given a succession of blooms the entire season. An iron fence encloses this garden, and over this are beautiful trailing vines. The house consists, on the ground floor, of a large hall running from front to back, a salon and dining room connected with double doors. From the dining room double doors open into

a court about 10 by 15 feet, decorated with flower boxes on two sides, with vines climbing over the wall. This place is partly covered with a glass roof, and with a large electric light and bamboo furniture, it makes a delightful reading room for the hot evenings. The salon and dining room and floral retreat are used for reading rooms and answer the purpose very nicely. The second floor consists of two large bedrooms, nicely furnished, and a bath room, with instantaneous heater. The third floor contains servants' quarters, a large chamber and storage room. This little third-floor room has been designated 'the little upper chamber' and has sheltered many a weary pilgrim who has found rest and healing before leaving. Visiting Scientists have always found it ready for them and it has also served as a little retiring room to which the readers have gone for their study and preparation before the meetings. The first floor, parlor, dining room and floral retreat constitute the auditorium in which the meetings are held."

Services were started at once by the Workers, the first one being held in the hotel room in which the Workers were temporarily quartered.

On the Fourth of July, which came shortly after our house was opened, the Workers entertained the boys at a luncheon which was much enjoyed.

On the same day a young French boy came to the house and asked if he might come in and read some French literature on Christian Science. He could speak only a few words of English, but fortunately a young French girl, who was an ardent lover of Science, happened to be at the rooms, and from her the Workers learned that this was the first time the boy had ever talked with a Christian Scientist. He told of picking up one of our pamphlets at the front and reading it. He said he thought it was the most won-

derful thing he had ever heard about, that he had read and reread it, and having seen our sign, thought he would come in and see if he could obtain something more on the subject. The next day he returned and was disappointed not to find the French girl there. The Workers insisted on his coming in, knowing that the truth could not be withheld from his hungry heart. They talked together for an hour and it was wonderful, our Workers said, how the truth expressed itself so all could understand. He was loaned a copy of the French translation of Science and Health and shown how to study the lesson. When he left for the front a few days later, it was with a joyful heart and he subsequently wrote to the French girl:

"At home I read the daily lesson with the keenest interest and the greatest admiration, and here in the midst of danger my friends are ever wondering at my confidence and feel surprised when they see with what eagerness I study this Science which they know only by name."

Our Worker was glad to be able to contribute 1000 francs towards a Band Fund which was being raised to serve with high-class music a permanent camp of 3000 to 5000 men. This camp was surrounded by the most unwholesome influences and the Commanding Officer himself subscribed 500 francs for the same purpose, so anxious was he to help his boys. He was most pleased with our assistance.

In September the first Workers were transferred to Paris and a second couple arrived in Tours in that month. By this time there had been established a lively organization, comfortably housed, with readers, pianist, soloist and usher for the services, and a customary attendance of thirty or more.

Tours, France, 11 bis Rue de l'Arsenal

The work continued to grow rapidly and on the expiration of the lease, larger and more centrally located quarters were obtained. By the month of December from 50 to 70 were in attendance. Moreover, a Distribution Committee of officers and enlisted men had been formed to aid in preparing papers for mailing and local distribution, and some of the soldiers took upon themselves the loving duty of going to the hospitals to read or write letters for afflicted comrades.

Arrangements were made with Y. M. C. A. Secretaries to post notices announcing that the Christian Science lesson kit could be borrowed from the Secretary to study the lesson, and a set was supplied every Secretary who was willing to accept it.

One of the duties of the Committee which became very heavy toward the end of the war was writing letters to soldiers in the field. These were in reply to calls for help. In some instances the boys were merely homesick, nervous, discouraged, or felt they were being discriminated against by officers; in others serious maladies, vice and its effects, and inebriety had to be overcome. In return, letters of thanksgiving and praise to God were received, stating that discords had melted away into their native nothingness.

On every hand, among officers and men there existed a wonderful spirit of helpfulness. An automobile was placed at the disposal of the Committee as often as was needed and a pass furnished by the Post Commandant admitting the Worker to all Government enclosures.

Enlisted men who had been sent to other fields would come back "home" to Tours on leave and stay overnight. Many boys said they would rather come

there on permission than go to Paris. While the open hours were theoretically from 1.30 to 9.30 p.m., there was no hour of the day or night when any seeker for Truth was not made welcome. For months the day when a guest did not arrive before 8.30 in the morning was rare, and few nights indeed, saw the last reluctant reader leaving the house before 11.30. Many of the younger lads made a practice of coming to the Rooms directly after the evening meal. The first part of the evening they would spend in study, then they would come into the living room to talk with the Workers and other visitors. Later when all readers had departed they would play the piano for they were seldom without a good musician in their midst, and the lads spent many a happy hour listening to good music.

Many hundreds of times the Workers heard the boys say: "This is just like home," or "Where would we go if we didn't have a home like this?" One boy wrote back from a base port speaking of a disagreeable environment in the camp, "You know, I spent all my spare time at the House and I'd forgotten the manner of conversation which goes on in the barracks." He mentioned, however, that one of his companions having made an evil remark, at once apologized to him, not because the Science boy gave any outward sign of disapproval, but because he had reflected enough of what he had learned in Science and Health to call forth that recognition.

The French people who came to the meetings seemed much interested in seeing a King James Version of the Bible, and a number of copies of the Bible and Science and Health have gone into homes where they are being studied diligently. The Public Library

of Tours was presented with two copies of the French edition of Science and Health, and one can feel sure that the seed of Truth has thus been planted in old Touraine. Of its fruitage there can be no doubt.

The Christian Science Monitor was a welcome visitor in all of the "Y" huts in and around Tours for almost a year. It was delivered each time a shipment came, at Rannes Barracks, Beaumont Barracks, Café du Palais, Trianon Theater Reading Room, Beranger Gardens Officers' Club, Hotel de Bordeaux (officers), Hotel Terminus (officers), Hotel Metropole (officers), Hotel Negociants and Hotel Central. The two last-named hotels were occupied by the women of the A. E. F.

Just outside the city limits of Tours is St. Pierre de Corps, an important railway transfer point, at which the troops entrained and through which, during the fighting days, came men from the base ports on their way to the front, and wounded men coming back to the hospitals. There the Committee supplied the Red Cross with Monitors and these were seized with avidity by one and all, the men being unstinted in their praise of the paper.

At St. Pierre was also located the largest prison camp of the Americans, where a "Y" was placed for the 1000 or more guards. Camp de Grasse with from 3000 to 5000 men, Rochambeau with an equal number, and the Engineers' Construction Camp with their quota of workers all received the Monitor regularly.

The Second Aviation Instruction Center, about six kilometers from Tours, had a hut where there was always a great demand for papers. This camp probably furnished the largest number of regular attend-

ants at our services. During a portion of the time it was impossible to get late passes and the boys would be obliged to leave before the end of the lesson and then run part of the way up a long steep hill to be back by ten o'clock. As it rained almost every day for several months, one can appreciate the devotion to good which these lads showed. Later they succeeded in getting special church passes.

Our Room in Tours continued to be active during the demobilization period. However, as one of the Christian Science army chaplains was transferred to this point, he was able to look after the needs of the Scientists who remained. The Room was closed on June 20, 1919.

BORDEAUX

Bordeaux was selected by the United States as one of the principal base centers from which to supply the American Expeditionary Forces, and accordingly large docks were built on the river Garonne, furnished with all the modern equipment necessary to handle expeditiously immense tonnage of freight, including many large electric cranes capable of unloading several ships at one time. The docks were connected with complete and ample railway facilities, cold storage plants and vast warehouses, and during the war a large part of the American supplies were handled at this city.

Near the American docks were two embarkation camps where there were over 20,000 men at all times, new troops taking the place of those embarking for home. At Pauillac farther down the river was another embarkation camp with a capacity of 10,000 men.

War Relief Depot, Le Mans, France

Another view of the Le Mans Depot

The area occupied by this base section was reported to be about 30,000 square miles, in which were twelve American base hospitals and eight camp hospitals with a total capacity of 60,000 beds. During the progress of the war the base hospitals near Bordeaux contained many sick and wounded brought back from the front in hospital trains.

For many months there was at all times a large number of American soldiers in this section, probably never less than 50,000. Before the armistice 10,000 American motor trucks were continually operating in the area, with an army of engineers to keep the roads in repair. In normal times Bordeaux is said to have 265,000 inhabitants but during the war its population increased to 400,000.

Our Workers, a man and his wife, arrived in Bordeaux on June 7, 1918. After several days' search they found a furnished apartment, occupying the entire second story of a building, on a main street of the city at 187 *rue Fondaudège*. A large sunny front room was used for a reading and writing room, in the rear of which was an office which served for distribution work. On Sundays these two rooms could be thrown together for services. There was a small reception hall used for a practitioner's office and in the back of the apartment were a bedchamber and kitchen utilized as living quarters by the Workers.

The General in command of this base section received our Workers cordially and ordered a notice of the rooms posted on the bulletin boards of all military organizations under his jurisdiction. Notices were also placed in various centers about the camps. In one case a young officer asked for a dozen to

be posted in conspicuous places. He was not a Scientist but he loved the Monitor and wanted to help Christian Scientists to find our Rooms.

Regular services were soon begun, being held at five o'clock, an hour which seemed to suit the greatest number of men. The boys began to come from far and near, all most grateful to have found the Rooms. One day after the Sunday service a soldier came quietly to the Worker and slipped a hundred-franc note into his hand, "To assist in the work of the Committee," he said. This was not exceptional, either in this depot, or in others in France. The boys were eager to show their gratitude for the help received in the Christian Science Rooms and our Workers regularly sent to the Paris office sums ranging, in Bordeaux, for instance, as high as 365 francs ($73) a month, representing voluntary donations from men in the service.

As soon as the men began to be aware of the existence of the War Relief Depot our Workers were called upon to send out large quantities of literature and to answer many calls for help. They had also to devote some time to the civilian population for the French themselves began to visit the Rooms, and finding the truth attractive, became regular attendants at the Christian Science services. A French lady in Bordeaux, who had been a student of Christian Science for several years and whose appreciation of the opportunity to attend services was very great, bought a copy of the French-English textbook, donating it to the Room to be loaned as occasion arose. It was immediately loaned and was in constant use ever after. This same lady sent a beautiful potted plant on

Thanksgiving Day as another evidence of her gratitude. There was proof in all the War Relief Depots of the growing interest in Christian Science among the French people, manifested in numerous requests for literature, calls for help and attendance at the services.

When our Workers at the Bordeaux branch made known their desire to present the Mayor of the city with a check for 5000 francs for the relief of war sufferers on behalf of The Mother Church Fund, the American consul offered to act as interpreter. The Mayor sent his secretary in an automobile to convey our Workers to his country home, where he received them most cordially. He was deeply moved on being presented with the check and said:

"This is but one more evidence of the bigness and thoughtfulness and loving-kindness of the Americans in their desire to help in every way possible in this terrible war, and I am very glad to accept this trust and will do all in my power to carry out their desires. If I were not a Frenchman I would want to be an American."

Truly from his viewpoint, this was the highest praise he could offer.

A most appreciated service rendered by our Workers in France was in sending information to friends and families in the United States about their dear ones in the service. Writing to the Bordeaux office, one mother says:

"Your epistle of July 10 is at hand. Words fail me to express my appreciation and thanks. You cannot imagine my surprise when I read your letter, nor my happiness. I cried for joy. Just to hear from someone who was with my dear boy, and then to know that Love is finding a way. . . .

I received a letter yesterday from my son telling me of your gift (a vest-pocket textbook) and of the fine talks you had had. It certainly is a pleasure to me, and a great comfort, to know you and your wife visit him."

Of Thanksgiving in the Bordeaux Rooms the Workers wrote:

"The Thanksgiving service was truly a joyous occasion, and in the testimonials given much gratitude was expressed for the help and benefits received in Christian Science. At six o'clock when our dinner was prepared the five boys who were reading and writing in the Rooms at that time were invited to share it. Their surprise and happiness were spontaneous and genuine, and as they gathered around the table, all agreed that it was 'just like home.' "

As elsewhere the healing work at Bordeaux was the most important phase of the activity. One incident may be related to show something of what was accomplished. An officer wounded in battle was brought to a hospital near this city, and being a student of Christian Science telegraphed for treatment. He was very ill, but was resisting with all his understanding the surgeons' determination to amputate his leg. Treatment was given him at once, his condition improved and when the Worker visited him he said he knew the demonstration was made and that Christian Science had saved his leg. His gratitude was very great.

The Bordeaux Room was very active during the earlier months of demobilization, but was finally closed on May 31, 1919. As the last Sunday services were so well attended, arrangements were made to continue them in a Red Cross hut as long as any soldiers remained in this area.

BREST

About fifty per cent of the American Expeditionary Forces entered France through the port of Brest. This city was France's main naval port before the war but had not much importance from a commercial standpoint. Its normal population of about 90,000 was increased to 120,000 by the influx of troops.

There were a number of camps located in the environs of Brest, and four hospitals in or near the city, one at Kerhuon having 4000 beds, another at Camp Pontanezan with the same number and Naval Bases No. 1 and No. 5 having 500 beds each, making a total of 9000.

The Christian Science War Relief Workers arrived in June, 1918. They had been supplied by the Paris Scientists with the name of one Christian Scientist, a sailor who was on a destroyer working from this base.

A note had been sent to this young man and on the second day after the arrival of the Workers he called, bringing with him a nurse who had become interested in Science before leaving America. The nurse knew of another Scientist, then a patient in the hospital to which she was attached, and of two others slightly interested. It was decided to begin services at once, so on the following Sunday the first Christian Science service ever held in Brest took place with five persons present. This number increased steadily until the average attendance reached about thirty.

Of their first experiences the Workers write:

"Upon our arrival here, we thought we had never seen so dirty a place, both morally and physically. Needless to say we were unable to find either a Room for our War Relief

work or even an apartment in which to live until we had proved somewhat the unreality of the seeming evil. The determination to see at least one good thing as we passed down the street, and to be grateful for it, was the key which opened the way here, bringing blessing to numbers of others. This one good pure thing which was uncontaminated by the belief of evil which seemed to attach itself to everything else, was the sunshine. Being grateful for the sunshine opened our eyes to other good things—the Rooms were soon found and opened, and a suitable place to live speedily followed."

The Rooms secured by the Committee were at 16 *rue Amiral Linois,* and were cleaned and renovated for our purposes. Across the front of the room there extended a large window and on its ledge our literature was displayed—a late Monitor, Le Héraut opened at a convincing testimony of healing, the vest-pocket Science and Health and a copy of the French-English edition of the same book. Many passers-by stopped to glance at the window and eventually came into the Rooms.

In order to work with the men in the outlying camps it was necessary to secure permission from the Y. M. C. A. Secretary in charge of the district. He readily gave his consent and the Base Commander added his approval and gave our Worker a permanent pass good for all camps in Army Base No. 5. Cards announcing the location of the Rooms were posted in the "Y" huts in town and the Scientists soon began to be aware of the presence of the Workers. A later order from the War Department placed our work under the jurisdiction of the chaplain, but it was allowed to continue uninterruptedly.

At the camps in the district where permission to visit town was rarely granted, boxes for communica-

tion were established in the "Y" huts. Into these, Christian Scientists who wished to see the Worker or send him a message, dropped their names. Hundreds of boys were located in this way.

Literature distribution was carried on in this Depot on the same scale as elsewhere, the Monitor work growing from 25 to 225 daily.

From the first there was a very healthy interest manifested by the French people of Brest. The French textbooks in the Lending Library were in constant circulation. Our Workers mention a French doctor, a Belgian soldier, a French sergeant and a French sailor among a number of others to whom the textbook was given or sold. One day a Frenchman who had purchased a Science and Health some months previous, came in to express his happiness at having found this satisfying and helpful religion. His conversation revealed the fact that he was a careful student and had made splendid progress. As he was about to go, he gave the attendant a fifty-franc note, saying:

"I know you must have many expenses here. My happiness is unbounded and I want to help make it possible for others to know about this religion."

An interesting case of healing which occurred in the Brest Depot was that of a French sergeant. He borrowed Science and Health, and later became so interested in it that he bought a copy in leather binding. He told the Workers that he had been healed of insomnia by reading the book and that a disease of the heart was also disappearing in the same way. There were also many calls from the American soldiers and our Workers were kept very busy respond-

ing to letters, telegrams and messages asking for treatment in Christian Science.

The Brest Depot was one of the last of the Rooms to close as a great number of men passed through the city during the demobilization period.

ST. NAZAIRE

In the first week of July, 1918, a Christian Science War Relief Depot was opened in the city of St. Nazaire, France. It was ideally located on the *rue Ville-es-Martin,* the main highway for the motor bus lines operating between St. Nazaire and the outlying army camps. The rooms taken for this purpose were on the ground floor and had formerly been used for a *buvette* or bar room. They were comfortably furnished by the Committee with a piano, writing desks and easy-chairs, and flowers on the tables always added a bright and cheerful touch. Some months after they were opened two sailors entered expecting to find the *buvette* of former days. Undaunted by the marked change, however, they remained and read for some time.

St. Nazaire is not an old city, as cities go in France, the first Mayor having taken office in 1790. Until that time the village had been nothing more than a coast fishing town. It was admirably situated for a port of commerce, however, standing as it does at the mouth of the Loire River, and when a floating dock was built to meet the difficulties presented by the changing tides, the city became an important port.

It was selected by the American Government as one of the chief debarkation ports for the American troops and the population of the city increased enormously on this account. In normal peace times the

inhabitants numbered approximately 40,000, whereas a conservative estimate of the permanent population located in St. Nazaire and its environs during the war, was 85,000.

Just west of the city a large camp accommodating 12,000 soldiers was built. This was only used for concentration purposes, however, for both the American and British troops. The Americans later built numerous camps about the city, holding from 400 to 2000 men each. Montoir, a near-by point, should properly be included in the St. Nazaire area.

Besides the camps, the following hospitals were located at St. Nazaire: Base Hospital No. 101; Camp Hospital No. 11; Field Hospital No. 44; Evacuation Ambulance Company No. 22; Mobile Ambulance Company No. 44; Base Dispensary; Medical Detachment Embarkation Camp. The personnel of these various hospitals totaled 95 officers, 759 men and 106 nurses.

When the War Relief Depot was first opened regular Christian Science services were held on Sunday and Wednesday. Later, in order to accommodate soldiers coming from outlying camps, two services were held on Sunday. The meetings were conducted entirely by the men, who assumed the duties of readers, pianist and soloist. The readers were elected for a period of two months. The congregation represented many different branches of the service, sailors, marines, soldiers, Y. M. C. A. workers, nurses, all military distinctions being laid aside when one entered the room. There was a very good attendance, averaging, our Worker says, about thirty.

The literature distribution work grew by leaps and

bounds. Monitors were supplied to troop trains leaving for the front and to ships returning to the States. "Y" huts, Red Cross stations, hospitals, military camps, Officers' Clubs, the American Commissary Department, hotels, barber shops, restaurants and many other places received the Monitor, an average of 400 a week being distributed in this way. There was also a large demand for textbooks, Bibles, Quarterlies and the other periodicals.

Our Worker presented the Mayor of St. Nazaire with a check for 2500 francs on behalf of the Committee for the relief of war sufferers. Shortly afterwards there appeared in one of the leading newspapers a notice from which we quote in part:

"In the list of subscriptions collected is a gift of 2500 francs given by the Christian Science War Relief Committee whose main office is at 3 *Avenue de l'Opéra*, Paris.

"This Committee maintains an office at St. Nazaire at 130 *rue Ville-es-Martin*, managed by Miss B.

"Its benevolent action, which is extended to all who suffer from hostilities, is manifested in the form of help in money and supplies.

"The municipality has expressed its hearty thanks to the generous donors whose act will permit it to relieve some misfortunes."

As in other places, the Rooms became a home to the Science boys and as was fitting, a home dinner was served on Thanksgiving Day to about twenty persons. Even the chef and his assistants were Scientists. It was a real Thanksgiving feast with turkey and "all the fixins'," as the boys put it.

Christmas also did not pass without observance. Two large trees were secured through the efforts of the boys, and the Y. M. C. A. furnished a box of

decorations. Adjacent to the Room were quartered some men from the Medical Corps who helped by furnishing two large containers of coffee and chocolate. This, with French biscuits, jam and candy, constituted the refreshments. The men's pleasure was unmistakable and they were particularly appreciative of the fact that here they were free from army discipline.

Much could be written of the healing work accomplished in this depot, and the following letter sent to our Worker will perhaps serve to illustrate many other cases.

"I received your favor, enclosing the two Quarterlies and two pieces of literature, and your kind note, today. I was delighted to get it all and am greatly obliged to you for sending it to me. I don't remember whether I mentioned in my other letter that the diagnosis card which came with me showed a compound fracture of the leg, but the X-ray picture taken here showed no fracture at all. The doctor here was puzzled as to how the first X-ray could have made a mistake. Whether he made a mistake or not, I do not know, but I do know that I have great cause for gratitude for what understanding I have of Christian Science. The leg is coming along in very good shape and I expect to be on my way back to join my company soon."

NANTES

When France was called Gaul, and Brittany was Armorica, Nantes already existed as a seaport of some importance. There are in the museums and archives relics and inscriptions dating to 200 A. D. which show that the city was a place of some consequence even at that early date. The history of Nantes for three or four hundred years after the second century reads like the story of "The House That Jack Built," for the

Bretons came, saw and conquered, and were followed in turn by the Franks and later by the Normans, until finally the "invading hordes were vanquished" and a measure of peace reigned. Houses were then built outside the old city walls, docks and quays sprang up along the river, and at last a cathedral appeared high on the hill which dominates the city.

The location of Nantes, only fifty-five kilometers from the sea, and at the junction of the railroad lines from Bordeaux, Brest, St. Nazaire and Paris, with direct communication with Brest by canal, made it an advantageous freight port, and great quantities of food and ammunition passed through it before and after the armistice. Fifty thousand refugees from the devastated districts of France and from Belgium were allotted to Nantes as the quota of the fifth largest city in the country. Its narrow streets were crowded with soldiers and sailors. American hospitals sprang up and American ships sailed up the Loire, and Nantes, which had been proud of its provincialism, proud of being "different" even from the rest of France, Nantes, which had known nothing of America, became a supply depot for the American army.

The most important single branch of activity was centered at the vast Motor Transport Park, where hundreds of motor cars and trucks were assembled every day. After the armistice Nantes became a billeting area for troops returning to the United States and, during the winter, men from all branches of the service were stationed there waiting to go home. At one time the personnel of forty-seven American hospital units were awaiting transportation. There were also, of course, many men regularly stationed at

Nantes, Pioneer Infantry, Engineers, Marines, the Quartermasters' Corps, and there was an aviation field at St. Jean de Monts.

In a suburb of Nantes an American hospital center was established consisting of five units accommodating about ten thousand men. At Savenay, in the Nantes area, was the largest hospital center in France, said to care for between eighty and a hundred thousand men. These were base hospitals and provided for fracture, neuropathic, tubercular and contagious cases as well as convalescents.

There were eight permanent Y. M. C. A. huts in or near Nantes—all rather small by comparison with those in other places. The American Red Cross had three huts in the city, one at Clisson for a short time and several at the hospital at Savenay. The Knights of Columbus did not open rooms at Nantes until January, 1919, although they tried several times to find a satisfactory location, and the Jewish Welfare Board did not come until the latter part of February, 1919, while the Salvation Army had no building at all. This made the Christian Science War Relief Rooms of singular importance. When the Christian Scientists arrived in September, 1918, only four of the Y. M. C. A. huts had been opened, and the War Relief Rooms, completely and comfortably furnished, were therefore especially welcome.

The Depot was located in the center of the city, at the junction of two of the most important streets, one leading to the Y. M. C. A. city hut, and the other to what was later the headquarters of the Knights of Columbus. Just around the corner were the American Post Office and the headquarters of the American

army. The Rooms consisted of a large salon, which the soldiers used as a lounging room, with comfortable chairs and a cheerful open fireplace. Here Christian Science services were held every Sunday and Wednesday. Adjoining this room—connecting with it by a large doorway—was the reading room, arranged with tables for reading and writing. Next to the reading room was a small office and on the other side of the corridor was a business office where French people and refugees applying for help could be received. Opening out of this was a large room where Christian Science literature and warm clothing for civilians and soldiers were stored, and where the literature was wrapped for mailing.

Letters were received daily asking for literature from men in the various barracks and hospitals, and aside from this distribution of Sentinels, Journals, Hérauts, pamphlets and Quarterlies, a hundred Monitors were mailed each day to individuals who had asked for them, and to all the relief huts. It was not at all uncommon for officers, not Christian Scientists, to send their orderlies to the Rooms for Monitors, and they often came themselves and asked if they might subscribe for the paper for a month or two.

The soldiers' edition of Science and Health was always in demand. The little books could be read so easily and inconspicuously that the men were able to use them under all circumstances, and only a soldier knows what that means. They were read in bunks and hospital beds and freight cars, as well as in forests and trenches at the front, and everywhere they carried the same message of healing and comfort. In order not to mar them, many men carried the books in their little

boxes in an inside pocket, and the reverence and gratitude with which they handled them showed how great a value they placed upon them.

There were few requests from civilians in Nantes for literature. Some French people visited the Rooms confessedly out of curiosity and each of these asked for French pamphlets. A few, however, became sincerely interested in Christian Science, bought the books and attended an occasional service; but for the most part they had little desire to "think on these things," being profoundly concerned with human affairs. Those who were interested enough to study the literature found Science and Health so entirely satisfying that they no longer wanted to read anything else, and they invariably had a great appreciation of Mrs. Eddy.

The people of Nantes for the most part understood and praised the purpose of the Christian Science War Relief Committee. When it became known that the Christian Scientists had given 5000 francs for the relief of the refugees during the winter, a great deal of gratitude and a very friendly interest in the welfare of the Workers was expressed. The news of the gift to the city and the willingness of the committee to help with the Community Christmas tree were subjects for much conversation in Nantes for many days. The tree, too, to which were given warm clothing, candy bags, and toys for two hundred war orphans, was a complete success, and seemed to add to the impression already abroad that Christian Science was in every way a religion to be commended. As a practical proof of appreciation our War Relief Committee was given the place of honor at the New Year's dinner

given by the French to two hundred American officers, and the Workers were put at the table with the colonel in command of the American troops in that district, and other especially distinguished guests.

Thanksgiving and Christmas gave our Committee an opportunity to give a little special pleasure to some of the soldiers who would otherwise have had only the dull round of duty and the cheerlessness of barracks and hospitals on those days when home seems particularly dear. On Thanksgiving Day a big turkey dinner was spread in the reading room, and all who came were made happy by the sight and taste of the familiar bird, surrounded by many kinds of vegetables in true American style, and adorned on either side with plates of "wonderful white bread"—a real luxury. The Thanksgiving dinner was such a success that two turkeys were prepared at Christmas time, and more guests invited, and apple pies and strawberry tarts were added to the menu, and there was a Christmas tree with candy bags and tinsel, and there were branches of holly and mistletoe tied with red ribbon! At the testimonial meeting which occurred that night many men expressed gratitude for the Rooms that had been provided by Christian Scientists for the soldiers in France, and for the comfort and protection, as well as for the healing, which those Rooms had brought to them.

The work of the Christian Science War Relief Committee in Nantes, was, of course, largely among those who needed healing. The men in the hospitals who knew something of Christian Science were anxious to have that help, and many others who heard that there were Christian Scientists in the vicinity asked for

War Relief Depot, Brest, France

War Relief Depot, Nevers, France

War Relief Depot at
St. Nazaire, France

treatment. Some of the nurses and other workers who were interested in Science encouraged the men to turn to it when all other help seemed to have failed, and again and again in such instances treatment was given and the patient healed. Men were relieved quickly of shell shock and healed almost instantly of influenza, mumps, headaches, sore throat, and infection. Treatment was begun for one man who had had both legs shattered and had been lying for more than six months with the bedclothes held away from him, as the slightest weight caused suffering. In a little over three weeks he was able to be partially dressed and go home to the United States. Another case of lost memory, resulting from a year's constant service at the front, was healed within a few days, and a lieutenant, with a severe attack of influenza and a very high temperature, was healed of the fever and of the other symptoms of the disease before he reached the hospital to which he had been ordered. Another lieutenant was healed of a condition of insanity in a few hours and was sent home a short time after.

Many men were healed while reading Science and Health. One officer who had been told that he was in a very serious condition with heart trouble and that it would be months, perhaps years, before he would be able to go upstairs comfortably, heard of Christian Science through a French boy who had been reading the literature, and sent to the reading room for "the little book." He was healed after reading for ten days, and called at the Rooms to ask questions and to leave a generous donation to the War Relief Committee.

It would be possible to multiply these cases many times but enough has been said to indicate that the

Rooms in Nantes were a center from which radiated healing, comfort and joy to the men in this area. They continued to do a splendid work until April, 1919, when the departure of the troops made their maintenance no longer necessary.

NEVERS

Christian Science War Relief Rooms were opened in the town of Nevers, France, in September, 1918. Situated at the confluence of the Nievre and Loire rivers, Nevers is almost the central point of France, being 157 miles from Paris. Its principal industry is pottery, which has been handed down from father to son since the seventeenth century. Aside from the pottery works and small mercantile establishments, Nevers is the center of an agricultural district.

Like many cities of France, its history dates back to the old Roman times. The ancient Roman walls overgrown with ivy, the ducal palace of feudal times, the beautiful old cathedral of St. Cyr with its flamboyant Gothic architecture, the church of St. Etienne founded in the reign of Thierry II, King of France about the year 600, and several fine towers and gates, are all of interest to the visitor.

The Christian Science Rooms served not only the boys located in the Service of Supply branches of the American army in Nevers (locomotive repair shops, Quartermasters' Corps, railroad men, engineers and labor troops numbering about 25,000) but also the Hospital Centers of Mesves twenty-five miles north, Mars about ten miles south, Pouges les Eaux six miles north, and the Motor Repair shops at Verneuil twenty-five miles east. During the month of October,

1918, there were over 39,000 patients at Mesves, and about 30,000 at Mars and Pouges les Eaux. The Verneuil shops were run by about 10,000 of Uncle Sam's boys.

The Workers arrived in Nevers on September 15, 1918, and at once had a most satisfactory interview with the Commanding General of the section. He offered them the use of the army transport service whenever needed and referred them to the billeting officer, who was of great assistance in locating quarters for the Reading Rooms.

These were opened on the ground floor at 5 *Avenue St. Just.* This street was the main thoroughfare for both civilians and soldiers, on the direct road to nearby camps. The transformation from a French pastry shop to Christian Science Reading Rooms proved interesting. The permanent fixtures in the large room consisted of a cashier's desk at the rear and small counters on either side. These proved to be most useful, the cashier's desk making an excellent Reader's desk during the services, while the counters afforded ample space for the display of literature, the enclosed shelving being used for supplies. The entire rear wall was covered with a mirror and there were large mirrors also above the counters. It was the desire of the workers to combine beauty with comfort in the rooms and to give the impression of an American living room. This was accomplished, and it meant much to the boys in contrast with the barrenness of army barracks.

In addition to the permanent fixtures, a large reading table was placed in the center of the room on which were all of Mrs. Eddy's works, Bibles and other litera-

ture. A picture of The Mother Church and of our Leader were hung on the walls. Writing tables and stationery were provided, as well as a piano and a French stove. Potted plants in attractive jardinieres, bright table covers, old rose cretonne draperies and net curtains, all gave a sense of home. Moreover, electric lights were installed which shone out into the darkened street, a beacon light to soldier and civilian.

The first Christian Science service in Nevers was held in the office of the Rooms on Sunday, September 29, at 3 p.m. It was attended by American soldiers and Signal Corps and Y. M. C. A. girls. The office was soon outgrown and the main room was opened for services on October 20 and proved none too large to accommodate the steadily increasing attendance. In response to a request from some of the personnel at one of the units in a large hospital center, the Workers started services in the Red Cross hut on October 6. Because of the duties of the hospital personnel and the constant changing of patients, the services had a different audience each week. Services were also started at another hospital on October 20, the Captain of the Red Cross kindly offering the use of his office for the purpose for a time.

During the first month of the Workers' stay the attendance steadily increased. Some of these visitors were transients, others became regular attendants. All the different branches of the service, including Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. workers, were represented. The simple and sincere gratitude of the boys for the blessings afforded them through the Reading Room found expression in the visitors' book, in which the following remarks were noted from among many more:

Living Room, Nantes, France

Interior, War Relief Depot, Nevers, France

Christian Science War Relief Headquarters, Bordeaux, France

"Insufficient room in this to contain my gratitude."
"First warm place I've found in France."
"A mighty cheerful place."
"*Très bien maison.*" (A. E. F. French!)
"More like home than anything I've found in ten months."

In one of their reports the Workers wrote:

"We have proved that love is the universal language. A touching incident of this occurred in the Reading Room recently. A young French boy who has been coming in to read the French-English edition of the textbook and who does not speak a word of English, found expression for his gratitude in actions rather than words. One evening we found him working in the office with the American boys, stamping Christian Science Monitors, and he showed by his beaming countenance that he was thoroughly enjoying the work. At another time when the necessity arose for making a sign in French for the window, he eagerly offered to make one, and it is now in its place."

The Workers received many letters and telegrams from boys in distant camps and hospitals, desiring treatment or literature. In some instances they responded in person, traveling sometimes several hundred miles by train or motor in order to give the healing message of Truth, or to render some human service which meant so much to the giver and receiver. Early in January the Worker visited a classification and evacuation camp at St. Aignan (a day's journey by motor) to render assistance to a boy who had been waiting six weeks for his Service Record Card to arrive from the Central Records' Office. Upon investigation, the error was uncovered and corrected. The boy in question was thus enabled to leave immediately for an embarkation port. It also released over 2000

others who had been delayed for the same reason, another proof that "whatever blesses one blesses all." (Science and Health, page 206.)

In another report our Workers write:

"It has been interesting to learn how divine Love has led the boys to find the Reading Rooms or to write for help. One boy who had been in a near-by hospital for several weeks told of his demonstration. As he lay on his cot, he took up the thought of the Vine and its branches, using the 15th chapter of John. He said he likened the Vine to The Mother Church. Being a member of this church, he knew he was also one with its branches and all its branch activities and could not be separated from them; and he knew that divine Mind would reveal to him the way to find a practitioner. For several days nothing unfolded, but he continued faithful in his metaphysical work. Then one day his nurse brought him a Paris edition of the New York Herald, wherein he found the list of the Christian Science War Relief Depots in France. He immediately wrote to the Committee at Nevers and is now with the Army of Occupation in Germany."

Of the French, our Workers wrote as follows:

"During the past month, numbers of French soldiers have been returning to their homes to take up their normal activities. Several have visited our Rooms, telling us that they had learned about Christian Science from their comrades at the front. French-English editions of Science and Health were sold to four of these soldiers and they were also supplied with *Le Héraut de Christian Science.*

"A young Frenchman who has been attending our services since the opening of the rooms, recently purchased through the Committee a French translation of the Bible and the textbook. He studies the Lesson-Sermons from Le Héraut.

"A vest-pocket edition of the textbook was sold to a Frenchwoman who had been a regular attendant at our serv-

ices. She has recently left for Algiers to take up her vocation of teaching.

"A French officer who had been disabled sent a relative to the Reading Rooms for literature. He had learned of Christian Science from an American soldier in the trenches.

"Another sale of the French-English Science and Health was made to a Frenchwoman living in an adjacent town. She had read Le Héraut and pamphlets which she procured at our Rooms. She wanted to investigate the subject further, together with her sister who was suffering with a disease which the doctors diagnosed as incurable. In response to an urgent letter, one of the Workers made a special trip to deliver the textbook and found a very grateful family ready to receive it.

"A few days before Christmas," says our Worker, "a captain of a hospital unit which had just arrived at Mars called at our rooms in Nevers to inquire if we could provide him with any knitted goods or clothing for his patients. He said that his experience with the Christian Science organization in the States led him to assume that he would be taken care of with dispatch by our overseas representatives, hence his call. In less than twenty-four hours after the receipt of our wire, the Paris Committee secured a quantity of clothing from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Committee in Paris and sent us a trunkful, which was distributed to the hospital unit the day before Christmas."

The evacuation of the camps in the Nevers district was very rapid and the need for War Relief work diminished to such an extent that it was deemed advisable to close the Reading Rooms on April 1, 1919. To quote again from our Workers' final report:

"The benediction used at our last service very appropriately concludes the work in this city. 'For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.'"

LE MANS

In The American Embarkation News of May 17, 1919, a soldiers' publication printed at Le Mans, there appeared the following article:

"The other day a soldier was passing the large gates back of which stands a great house at 13 *rue Saint Dominique.* Pointing to the building he remarked, 'Believe me, Joe, that place used to be home to me.' He was referring to the house formerly occupied by the Christian Science Welfare and Relief organization of Le Mans. Their headquarters have been moved to 35 and 37 *rue la Paille* at the intersection of *rue de la Batterie* and *rue Bourge d'Augny,* where reading and rest rooms are available for all soldiers who wish to enjoy them.

"But it was at *rue Saint Dominique* that soldiers found a little paradise of a place. A large, roomy building, wonderfully furnished with heavy, soft rugs in which you lost your feet, windows shaded with pretty curtains and walls covered with mirrors and art studies greeted the soldier. It was just like home. . . .

"A large fine-toned grand piano was at the disposal of the men. Unique little tables served the soldiers with places to write and there was always plenty of good stationery. The fact is, the Christian Science Welfare and Relief rooms at 13 *rue Saint Dominique* were one of those places where a soldier wanted to clean his shoes on the outside and remove his hat as he entered the door.

"One of the delightful things about this place, which was so popular with the boys, was the quiet that reigned there. There was no noise, no hubbub and one could spend a few hours in the reading room absolutely undisturbed. . . . There are perhaps few men in and about Le Mans who have not spent an hour or two in the place and who will not acknowledge, like the fellow quoted in the first paragraph, that the place was really a home.

"The welfare and relief work of the Christian Science people here in Le Mans has been done without display or circus advertising. They have been handicapped in that they were not in the same status as the other organizations. Having done their work quietly and served their purpose well, without ostentation, many of the men who have been stationed in Le Mans, and others who have passed through here, will long remember the unique place which the organization played in the welfare of the soldier of the United States in France.

Thus in their frank way do the boys sum up the work of the War Relief Depot established in Le Mans.

The original house referred to in this article was situated at 13 *rue Saint Dominique* in the center of the business section of the city and on a main traveled street. It contained nine rooms, including a large salon used to receive visitors and for Sunday services. Adjoining this was the Reading Room, opening into two smaller rooms, an office and a mailing room respectively. There were also living quarters for the Workers and two additional bedrooms. These last-mentioned chambers served an unusual purpose. Our Workers found that many army officers, particularly chaplains (whose headquarters were in Le Mans while awaiting assignment) were unable to obtain sleeping accommodations and were often forced to spend the night on the streets. Our rooms, which could accommodate five men, were placed at the disposal of such officers, and during one month some thirty-four chaplains were sheltered in the War Relief house. This was with mutual benefit to both host and guests, and several men became sufficiently interested in Christian Science to request a copy of the textbook before departing for their post of duty.

Le Mans was a most important city from the standpoint of the A. E. F. Situated between Paris and the coast, on the main railroad line, it became the second depot area of the Service of Supply. From a normal population of 70,000 the war refugees swelled this number to 125,000, without reference to the American troops in billets and barracks near the city. The area included in the Le Mans district was 500 square miles, in which were stationed an average of 40,000 men. As our Workers wrote in one of their reports:

"Everyone had a tremendous amount of work to do and all were driving themselves desperately to get it done. Training squads were daily receiving new troops from the States and training them until they literally dropped in their tracks. Soldiers were continually on the move, thousands stopping for a few hours in trains upon sidings or in camps a few miles from town. In the town was a Casual Barracks, known in the army as the 'mad house.' Here casuals were assembled,—men who had been sick or wounded in action, or detached from their companies for one reason or another. They were assorted, refitted and sent to the front. The average stay was two days and it seemed almost impossible for them to procure a pass. Everything was jammed full, and the overflow spilled out into the muddy fields, and made its bed on the oozy ground. Officers passing through the town were very little better off than the men. Hundreds walked the streets, or slept in stations or hallways, unable to find shelter. Transportation and food were lacking, all else being subordinated to the one purpose of getting everything available up to the front.

"Our question as to why Christian Science should be held aloft in Le Mans was very soon answered. The opportunities for healing work increased day by day. New points of contact with the men constantly presented themselves. To raise the standard of the men along whatever line their thought

was tending and lay a foundation of spiritual truth through whatever channel was opened to us, was the relief needed at the moment. After looking over the field and securing our rooms, we noted the immediate work before us and made plans for its proper execution. These plans were submitted to the commanding welfare officer in the area and received his approval. Thereafter, no step was taken, nor any change made, without first submitting it to either the commanding General or the welfare officer.

"From that time to the present everything has prospered. The congregation filled the rooms to overflowing, and the members proved, in some measure, the power of Principle in their own affairs. Our boys secured passes when to human reason it seemed impossible, transportation was procured when needed, and an official order went out providing for the admission and care of The Christian Science Monitor throughout the area. The Senior Chaplain of the American Embarkation Center sent out a general letter to Y. M. C. A. workers and Zone Majors in this area calling their attention to The Christian Science Monitor and said: 'It is the wish of the Commanding General that the Christian Science daily newspaper—the Monitor—enjoy a worthier circulation among the men of the American army, than at present obtained. Besides furnishing them daily with excellent reading material it has had a good moral effect among the men.' "

"Musicians and booklovers have sent in for the Monitor from a considerable distance because of special interest in the music and literary pages. A chess player came in to pick up back dates for chess problems and many other men have come up to make a study of the editorials, declaring that the Monitor had given them their first grasp on the world issues, in a big way."

The attendance at the Le Mans services grew rapidly and was very cosmopolitan in character. At one Wednesday evening meeting the congregation in-

cluded, besides our American boys, French, Belgian, Hungarian and Russian attendants.

Of civilian inquirers our Workers said:

"We have had some very interesting experiences with French, Belgian and Russian investigators of Christian Science. During the first four months nearly two hundred inquirers presented themselves. Some of these proved to be earnest students and had interesting demonstrations, many times entirely through the study of Science and Health. These have endured, and in one instance at least, the student is proving his faith by healing others."

As elsewhere, our Workers had many requests for treatment. A man born in Russian Tartary and raised a Mohammedan, spent many hours each day studying Science and Health in the Reading Room. He reported that a skin disease of long standing had been healed completely since the truth contained in Science and Health had been revealed to him and he had applied its teachings. A young Frenchman reported that he had been healed of melancholia, which had beset his path all his life, and that he was most happy in this understanding of the phantasmal nature of evil.

One very interesting case of healing was that of a young captain, who after a night of great pain, found himself unable to move when it came time to report to his colonel for some special duty. A doctor was called, who after examination stated that the captain's appendix had burst and it was impossible to do anything for him. A friend had already been sent to request Christian Science treatment for the captain and shortly after the doctor's visit the War Relief Worker arrived. The pain left almost at once and the

Christian Science Headquarters, Romorantin, France

In the courtyard at Romorantin

man went to sleep. In less than three hours he awakened perfectly well, arose and dressed himself.

Mention has been made elsewhere of the excellent work done among the war refugees in Le Mans and our room was constantly visited by grateful recipients of help from the War Relief Fund of The Mother Church, who called to thank our Committee for the assistance given them.

Throughout the demobilization period the Le Mans Depot was continuously active and, with the exception of the one at Brest and the Paris office, was the last of the French War Relief Rooms to close its doors.

ROMORANTIN

In October, 1918, one of our Workers in France, who had until that time been active in the Depot at St. Nazaire, was sent to establish the work in the town of Romorantin. This was a central point serving a large military district, including among other places Blois, Bourges, Issoudun, Cour Cheverny and St. Aignan. Our Worker found a cordial welcome from the American and French authorities and secured a fine house for the Reading Rooms at 2 *rue de l'Ecu.* It was on the main square of the town, to which on Sundays and holidays band concerts attracted thousands, who could not fail to see our headquarters.

Christian Science services were held regularly in Romorantin with steadily increasing attendance, until Christmas night which was the concluding service.

Much of the literature distribution from this Depot had to be done by mail on account of the large territory served. The Soldiers' Distribution Committee

supplied large quantities of Monitors to the camps and all the Y. M. C. A. huts were well taken care of and were glad to have our literature. The hospitals in the area likewise were most appreciative of reading matter.

Our Worker received calls for help from boys in all the outlying camps. One aviator flew from Issoudun for treatment and then flew back in his machine. Another soldier walked twenty miles each way to attend a Sunday service.

In work for the refugees our representative was also active and was appointed to serve on a Committee, consisting of the Mayor of Romorantin and several business men, to investigate and recommend action on refugee cases.

Almost immediately after the signing of the armistice, demobilization began and by January 1 it was deemed advisable to close our work at this Depot. Although active only three months, the Depot filled a need. As our Worker says in his final report:

"Many soldiers found rest, help and comfort during a period when they were working under the greatest strain and the Committee can be satisfied that it has made a valuable contribution to the A. E. F. in its time of urgent need."

PARIS

Work at the Paris headquarters at 3 *Avenue de l'Opéra,* differed somewhat from that of the various rooms in other parts of France. The offices were selected, furnished and opened under the direction of the manager of the War Relief Committee who was then in France. With him was an experienced Camp Welfare Worker who had spent several months

at Camp Dix, New Jersey, and the local Christian Scientists of Paris added their hearty cooperation. The suite of offices in Paris housed several Christian Science activities: the joint Reading Room of the Paris churches, headquarters of the committee administering The Mother Church Relief Fund for France, and in addition, the commodious quarters maintained by the War Relief Committee. These accommodated its clerical force and provided a place in which the literature could be received and sent forth for distribution over Europe. Here also were located reading and lounging rooms for men in the service.

The volume of correspondence which began to pour into the Paris office was tremendous. Parents wrote for news of their sons. The boys wrote requesting literature. The French Depots wrote on matters of administration and the Boston office wrote, forwarding all the requests sent by the various State Committees of the United States.

The branch of work known as the "casualty lists" grew to enormous proportions. These were the names of boys who had been wounded or were in hospitals or who had not been heard from, and were forwarded from Boston to Paris, either by cable or letter, for investigation. The patient, loving effort of the Paris Workers to secure the information which would bring comfort and relief to the anxious ones at home, effort which sometimes involved a long railroad journey and hours of search through endless records, ending, perhaps, in the report that the boy in question had been transferred and the search must begin all over again, represented persistent endeavor worthy of the highest commendation.

After the arrival and location of the second group of ten workers in September, 1918, the manager of the Committee returned to America, and the Paris office was placed in charge of the two Workers who had established the Depot at Tours. Two women practitioners were also added to the personnel of the office. This was necessitated by the constantly growing demand for Christian Science treatment from the men of the A. E. F. A most important work which had been instituted in the early summer, in the hospitals in and about Paris, was now enlarged. Our women Workers visited them regularly, carrying a large supply of Monitors and other literature.

A Worker says:

"A few moments after distribution, to look back over a long corridor of cots and see almost every soldier reading the Monitor is a sight never to be forgotten."

Much impersonal healing work was accomplished in the hospitals as the following incident related by one of the Workers will indicate:

"In one of the buildings visited, a boy who had been shot through the lungs, repeated the Lord's Prayer all day and thus overcame 'the last enemy.' The supervising nurse had asked the Monitor visitor to talk with the lad. 'He will probably live but a few hours,' said she, 'and he's from your town.' This boy, who knew nothing of Christian Science (and of course the subject was not mentioned to him), had lost his Bible at Château Thierry. 'I knew when I did,' he gasped, 'that it was all up with me, because I had carried that Bible with me everywhere.' 'But you did not lose the Lord's Prayer,' he was reminded, 'and you could really use that prayer all day, actually use it for breathing. Just substitute it for breathing if you're a little short of breath. Will you promise to say it all day?' And he promised.

War Relief Room at 38 rue d'Entraigues, Tours, France

In the House at Nantes, France

"Two weeks later the Irish nurse who had him as her particular charge, almost shouted: 'Why, John, there's that lady who talked to you the day you were so bad, and haven't I often been thinking of it since. That was the day you got well, John.' Later, the boy was presented by the Committee with a Bible. He held the book a moment to his face, tenderly caressing it, and quickly slipped it under his pillow. 'There is nothing,' said one nurse, 'which the boys so thoroughly love as a Bible.' "

During the influenza epidemic and the last bitter weeks of the war, when the American troops were winning their laurels in the Argonne and at St. Mihiel, all our Paris Workers were busy day and night responding to calls for help. Their work also necessitated a great deal of correspondence—letters to the boys themselves, and to their friends. The joy of these faithful Workers can well be imagined when possibly some time after treatment had been begun a stalwart American lad would walk into the War Relief Rooms announcing that he was Sergeant C. or Lieutenant L. or Private X. and say, "You've been helping me, you know, and I'm feeling fine." Sometimes the boys never got to the Rooms but would send grateful letters acknowledging the help received.

After the signing of the armistice the nature of the cases changed somewhat. The enforced idleness into which the men were plunged after the continuous activity of previous months seemed a fertile soil for the seeds of temptation and vice, and many earnest boys who appealed to our Workers were helped to rise above the conditions which threatened to engulf them and were shown how to be contented and happy until the longed-for embarkation order arrived.

The Workers in the Paris Rooms had the joy, too, of hearing the experiences of men just back from the front, and many were the grateful expressions of gratitude for the protection afforded through an understanding of Christian Science. One day a lieutenant came in asking for information about Christian Science. He explained that he had become interested while censoring the mail of soldiers who were Scientists, and said:

"They were all such cheerful letters. One boy was an especially cheerful creature in the letters he wrote. I used to read his letters sometimes two or three times. The doctors had given him no hope because of his wound and yet he refused to believe a thing they said. I thought I should like to know what sort of a religion he could possibly have which would make him disbelieve a doctor's verdict. The boy is getting well and I want to know about Christian Science."

There were a number of interesting appeals for literature from French soldiers. One, upon becoming an earnest student of the textbook, voluntarily and without effort gave up the use of wine and tobacco, in obedience to what he read in Science and Health. He also inquired about the church service, and thereafter conducted his own service, in strict conformity to the Manual, in a French army automobile.

The Paris office was the distributing center for all the Christian Science literature which went to the Allied Armies in France, with the exception of the British army which was supplied by the London office. Great quantities were sent direct from Boston to the various Depots throughout France but a large surplus stock was always kept on hand in Paris to forward to small groups of Scientists who were hold-

ing services and distributing literature. The office also endeavored to get in touch with every soldier whose name was forwarded to them. These were names sent to the Boston office in response to the notice appearing in the Christian Science Sentinel, asking for names and addresses of those men in the Allied Armies who were interested in Christian Science. It was the experience of the Committee that in many instances names were sent in by friends who wished that the man in uniform might become interested, or who thought he might be, but in every case the name was forwarded to the nearest Worker. Some 12,000 were thus sent to the Paris office from time to time and to each soldier a printed form was thereupon mailed from Paris indicating the location of the Rooms and announcing that he was welcome to call upon them for Christian Science literature or help at any time. In cases where books or literature had been requested by the person who sent in the name, the soldier was asked to reply verifying his address. This latter precaution was found to be absolutely essential in view of the constant movements of the troops and the shifting of the personnel.

One of these letters was sent to a soldier who had been told by the doctors it would be more than two years before he could hope to be better. "I am going," he announced to his hospital associates, "to that Reading Room and get what they have for me." This soldier received his healing at once and within a few days was discharged from the hospital and sent out on active duty. He later wrote:

"I could write all night and tell you the joys I have received since October 13, but I know that you know how

I feel. I hope that others who are in the position that I was will turn to Christian Science and derive the benefits that I have,—truth and happiness. It is all so wonderful that I can hardly realize that I have been cured and I often stop and think, 'Have I been healed?' And then I remember that man is the spiritual image and likeness of God, and recognizing this, my true selfhood, I could not be sick."

The signing of the armistice brought no diminution of visitors to the Paris Rooms but rather an increase, at least during the first months of demobilization, for many lads were then able to secure the much-desired permission to visit the famous capital city of France. To these the Christian Science War Relief Rooms meant much. In the words of one of the visitors:

"It was like a taste of home, your lovely reading and writing room on the Avenue de l'Opera and the sincere Wednesday evening meeting in First Church. Moreover, on the way back, I had a most helpful conversation with a Y. M. C. A. lady who had testified. Many thanks again to your Committee and to the whole glorious discovery of Mrs. Eddy."

As the work gradually diminished, three of the practitioners stationed here during the latter part of the war, returned to the United States, leaving the manager and his wife to care for the Rooms. With the signing of peace terms in June and the rapid departure of American troops, the work throughout France decreased so quickly that the activities at the Paris headquarters became less exacting as week succeeded week, and the office was closed on July 31, 1919, and the fine suite at 3 *Avenue de l'Opéra* which had served so admirably for more than a year was sub-let on advantageous terms and the work in France concluded.

Paris Headquarters, 3 Avenue de l'Opéra, Paris, France

In the Reading Room, Paris, France

A Corner of the Paris Office

VI

ENGLAND'S ANSWER TO THE CALL

THE war drew from civil life into the British army and navy countless men who had to face undreamt-of hardships and dangers for which they were quite unprepared. From north, south, east and west there came to British shores men ready to sacrifice their all for the freedom of the world. In a very short time Great Britain was turned into a vast training camp filled with men removed from all home influences and often dreading the experiences in front of them, and there seemed very little to alleviate the situation and give any real comfort and support.

Between the last months of 1914, when it was recognized that the war would not be of short duration, and the summer of 1915, many Christian Scientists had asked themselves if something special could not be done to make Christian Science available to the numbers of newly made soldiers whose needs seemed to be so desperate. At the semi-annual meeting of First Church of Christ, Scientist, a resolution was passed which eventually resulted in the formation of a committee of delegates from the churches in the London district.

The work in other parts of the country was undertaken in the early years of the war by single churches or groups of churches forming committees to super-

vise the work in their own localities, and every step was a demonstration of the value of faith, as there was no precedent by which to steer the course, nor any experience by which to justify it.

The first idea was to gain permission to establish Christian Science Reading Rooms with the B. E. F. in France, but after interminable correspondence with War Office officials, this course was abandoned, and the London Committee turned its efforts to the military centers in the south of England, where proximity to a town would permit of premises being taken without military sanction.

COLCHESTER

After some deliberation Colchester was chosen as being suitable for the purpose. It was at that time not only a permanent garrison town, but some twenty or thirty thousand troops were constantly being drafted in and out, and it maintained besides a large convalescent military hospital. The town of 40,000 inhabitants is about fifty-five miles from London and while there is no organized Christian Science work there, the little community of Christian Scientists proved itself a most valuable coadjutor in the work.

At first the Committee only ventured on two small rooms in a little house opposite the Public Library, taking them on a three months' trial. These rooms were made comfortable and attractive, and were opened just before Christmas, 1915, the hours being from twelve to nine daily, and on Sundays from three to nine. All Mrs. Eddy's works, and the books marked for the lesson-sermon, were laid out and tables

were provided with everything required for writing. The writing facilities were the great attraction in the early days to many men who enjoyed the peace and quiet, instead of the racket of the usual places provided for them. As time went on, they began to take an interest in the Monitor, the periodicals, and finally in the textbook, in a way in which perhaps they might never have done except for the opportunity thus given to them.

The result of this first venture so far exceeded anticipation that the Committee were encouraged to make a second attempt, and on July 26, 1916, similar rooms at Bedford were opened, to be followed at varying intervals by others at Aldershot, Dover and Chatham.

BEDFORD

Bedford, which is a residential and educational town, and which had, until that time, been considered famous for its orderliness, suddenly found itself converted into a military center. All available houses were taken as billets for soldiers, and several large camps outside the town had come into existence. In the early summer of 1917, the division which had been in Bedford since the opening of the Room was moved away, and the town became a large training center for the Royal Engineers and also for the Flying Corps. In addition to these, another division was moved in, and there was great activity.

With the opening of the Room the men streamed in in batches of five or six, many of them recruits still in civilian clothes. The news went quickly round the billets that the Christian Scientists had opened a room

where soldiers could read and write their home letters in peace, and many men found their way there within a few hours of arriving in Bedford. Three boys, for instance, came in one day shortly after their arrival and could hardy credit that such comfort and accommodations were intended for private soldiers. Next evening they returned bringing seven friends with them, and these ten came regularly thereafter, except when detained by military duties. An interesting man who had been for some years Honorary Secretary of a London branch of the Y. M. C. A. which deals with boys under sixteen years of age, also became a regular visitor. He was hugely appreciative of the Room, its peace, quiet and comfort, the more so as he carried on a large correspondence with his old boys, many of whom were in the army like himself, and wrote to him for counsel and encouragement. He said one night to the Worker:

"We owe an immense debt of gratitude to your Committee, and to whoever first thought of providing such a restful place for soldiers."

ALDERSHOT

As the rooms already established in these places were attracting large numbers, the Committee felt it was very important that a similar room should be opened at Aldershot, the largest permanent military center in England. On making inquiries, a suitable hall was found to be available, and negotiations were at once entered into, with the result that these premises were arranged as reading and writing rooms, and opened in April, 1917. With the exception of one camp, which is practically in Aldershot, the barracks

and camps were scattered around the town, and the restrictions with regard to the men being on leave in the town were very great. This may account in some degree for the fact that the largest number of men using the Room in a month was 1688, not so high a monthly figure as in other places. But excellent work was done and good cases of healing were reported from these Rooms.

A man who had used the Room while stationed at Aldershot, sent a card from France saying that he was grievously wounded and asked for help. The doctors said he could not be moved, and that a severe operation would have to be performed. Treatment was given, and after a few days, he was able to be moved to a hospital in England, and in less than a month he was dismissed without an operation, and wrote, saying:

"I cannot tell you how wonderful it has all been to me, and I should like the doctors who attended me in France to see me now."

Much of this sort of work was done for the men from the time the Rooms were first opened, and large numbers were kept in touch with, letters and papers being sent to them at frequent intervals. They wrote with great gratitude and appreciation of the friendly interest shown in their welfare.

DOVER

In the summer of 1917 the work began at Dover, which, owing to its exposed position on the southeast coast of England, was subject to constant air raids and to bombardments from the sea. The military

authorities took entire possession of the town and the civil population in great part moved away in order that the houses might be available for sailors or soldiers. Dover soon became a veritable fortress, into which no one could enter without a passport. The Workers in the Rooms there found themselves, to all intents and purposes, in a war zone, and constantly had the opportunity of helping men who were actually engaged in some of the most important and dangerous operations carried out during the war.

Among the soldiers stationed at Dover from time to time, some were already interested in Christian Science and these became regular frequenters of the Rooms during their stay. But at the same time, out of the 31,582 visits paid to the Dover War Relief Rooms between August, 1917, and the end of November, 1918, it is probable that many men paid only one visit, as the troops were constantly changing, and it is known that over four million men passed through the town.

CHATHAM

The work next opened up at Chatham, which is a large naval base on the south coast, with barracks for the naval forces and also for the Royal Engineers. Many soldiers were also quartered there during the war, and the streets of the town were so crowded that it seemed a very suitable place in which to start the work. A large hall was offered to the Committee and proved to be very satisfactory.

Many soldiers who had made use of the Dover Rooms were transferred to Chatham and in this way

the work begun at one Reading Room was carried on in another. The Rooms at Chatham were opened in March, 1918, and the highest monthly attendance was 2636, reached in January, 1919, since which time demobilization caused a reduction.

An extract from a report states:

"Sailors have come into the Rooms through having seen the literature on their ships, one from having been introduced to it through Scientists at Durban, South Africa. Soldiers have seen it in camps or have been attracted by the notice boards. One man came across it in the trenches, where a companion received the Monitor regularly and passed it round for all to read."

There were good cases of healing recorded in Chatham, but it is noticeable that many men quickly learnt to do their own work, when once they started reading the books.

Among many interesting points which came up in the course of the unfoldment of the work, was the increasingly rapid recognition of each Room as these were opened in different centers. At Colchester twelve days elapsed before any soldier ventured to step across the threshold, but at each subsequent opening the time was less and less until at Dover, a man came in to use the Room before the lettering was finished on the window.

Rooms of a similar nature were opened by the Yorkshire churches at Ripon, in February, 1916, at Newcastle early in 1917 by First Church of Christ, Scientist, in that town, at Dublin in September, 1917, and Bexhill and Edinburgh in 1918.

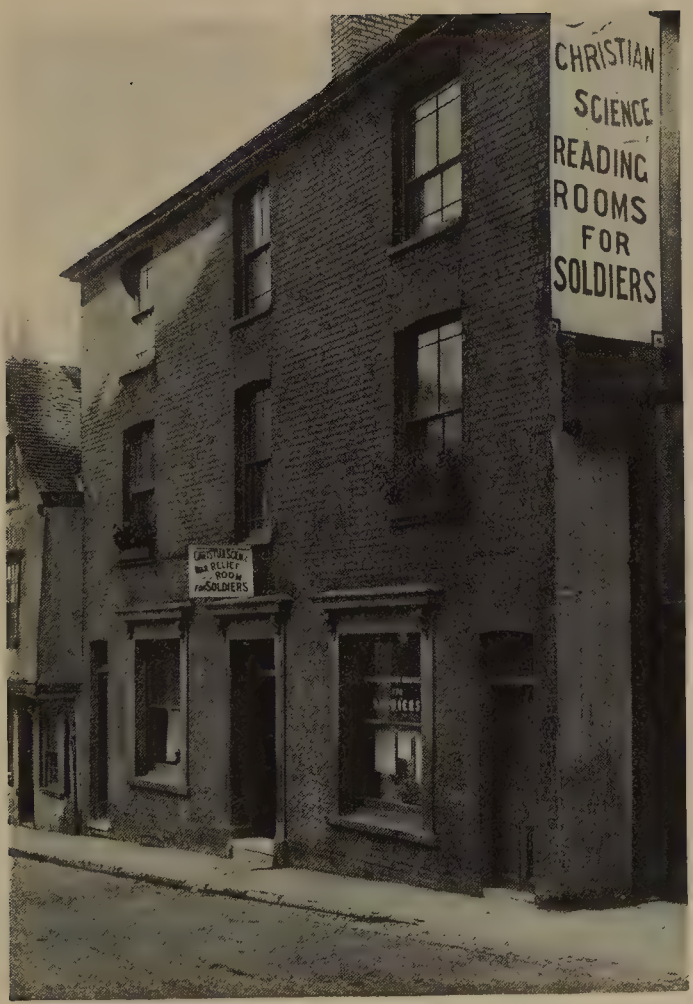
RIPON

The needs of the soldier in Yorkshire were first recognized by two of the churches in that county, and in January, 1916, a small room in a central position, well lighted and warmed and provided with writing tables, was opened in Ripon, where it was roughly estimated that never less than 20,000 men were stationed. Very soon good proofs were forthcoming of the practical value of the work to those it was intended to bless. Through this Room, many men were led to the study of Christian Science, and some interesting cases of healing took place. In many instances fear of going to the front was eliminated. One man writes:

"I am greatly thankful for what knowledge I have got of the truth, and although I miss the Reading Room, I don't miss God. I feel I have got a good hold, and I am sure nothing will shake me off. I feel as happy as possible with this lesson, knowing that God is with me wherever I go."

The attendance grew so rapidly that it was soon felt that there was a call for a much larger thought and a grander and wider view of the infinite possibilities of the work, and all the churches and societies in the county were invited to cooperate. A whole house was taken, providing more adequate accommodation, and many were the expressions of gratitude for the quiet, order and restful atmosphere prevalent. The military police were particularly struck with the order and refinement of the Rooms, one of them remarking, "You do get the best men here."

The attitude of the soldiers in using the Rooms was



War Relief Rooms, Colchester, England

invariably one of gratitude and courtesy, manifested in such practical ways as taking the mud off their boots at the door, and in their extreme care of the chairs and tables provided. Many of the men sent home some of the literature to their wives and relatives, and in this way interest in Christian Science has spread, accompanied in many cases with quick healing results. One soldier who attended the Rooms sent a beautiful testimony expressing his gratitude for many benefits received through Christian Science—his wife was healed of an internal trouble of seven years' standing, and also of baldness—he, himself, of chronic rheumatism, and he finished his testimony by saying:

"In domestic affairs, in the care of our children, and in our relations with that larger family of God's children, in fact, wherever there is discord, the learning of, and humble obedience to, the teachings of Christian Science promise us great blessings."

Another man so treasured a Journal which he had been given that he wrote to say he carried it about next his shirt, because he had no pocket large enough to put it in.

Approximately 10,450 men visited the Rooms at Ripon in six months and genuine appreciation and gratitude for the great benefits received were daily expressed.

On October 17, 1918, the first Sunday service was held in one of the largest rooms of the Ripon house at 3 o'clock. An officer and a private acted as First and Second Readers, and there were eight or ten soldiers present besides a few civilians. The numbers attending steadily increased, the last two Sundays, the

Room being nearly full. A young officer, in expressing appreciation of these Rooms, said:

"How the work done here will fill your churches. Men get a firm grip on Christian Science in these Rooms, and it is bound to bear fruit wherever they go."

NEWCASTLE

In Newcastle large numbers of soldiers were stationed for the purpose of coast defence, and early in 1917, the members of First Church of Christ, Scientist, realized that a quiet room for reading and writing was greatly needed to serve the men billeted in the town. The church board room was set aside for this purpose, and was soon overflowing with men grateful to find such a haven of rest. During the earlier hours of the day, the Room was full of convalescent soldiers, who greatly appreciated the Monitor and carried it back with them to their hospitals. The Room was open for rather more than two years, during which period more than 21,000 British soldiers made use of it.

DUBLIN

Later in the same year First Church of Christ, Scientist, Dublin, Ireland, took steps to open a War Relief Room for the large number of soldiers and sailors stationed in or passing through the town. The work was successful from the beginning, but when it was placed under The Mother Church scheme in 1918, there was a marked increase in the attendance, and it was found necessary to open larger premises to accommodate the men. The Rooms undoubtedly filled a great need, as was evidenced by the universal ex-

pressions of appreciation which came from the soldiers, for the comfort and rest found there, for the ample supply of writing materials, for the opportunity of reading the Christian Science publications and for the friendly welcome extended to all comers. Many liked to talk and unburden their troubles, or to ask questions regarding the teachings of Christian Science. An American soldier, now returned to the States, wrote to a member of the War Relief Committee:

"My worries all vanished into nothingness through the much-needed Christian Science treatments which you gave me and the kindness you showed me while in your city, for which I thank you more than I can express with a pen, and which I will never forget. If it had not been for Christian Science I do not know what I would have done, but it has met my every need."

A number of aviators regularly made use of the Rooms as well as members of the Queen Mary Army Auxiliary Corps, of the Women's Royal Naval Corps, and of the Women's Legion. Several boys used the Rooms for quiet study in preparation for examinations and said that they could learn more there in ten days than anywhere else in a month. As the time given was quite inadequate for the amount of work to be done, the Rooms were a huge help to such boys.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA

The War Relief Room opened at Bexhill-on-Sea on the coast of Sussex accomplished valuable work especially for the Canadians, who were stationed in large camps or billeted in the town. Healing took

place from the beginning of the work, and quite a number of men became interested in Christian Science. They were especially glad to find a friend in the Rooms to whom they could talk of their dear ones at home. On one occasion a man asked the Worker if she could help his child in Canada, who had consumption. Treatment was begun and some weeks after, the soldier brought in a letter from his wife, saying that the child had been passed by the same doctor as perfectly well.

EDINBURGH

In July, 1918, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Edinburgh, Scotland, opened a War Relief Room to serve the needs both of the military forces stationed in the town and of the fleet operating from Rosyth naval base in the Firth of Forth. Large numbers of men from the British Colonies came to spend their leave in this old historic town and some found their way to the Rooms. Many interesting experiences are on record of conversations with men from different parts of the world, with whom the Workers had the opportunity of breaking the bread of Life.

LONDON

The unflagging interest and support given to these early efforts by the contributing churches was noteworthy. The cost of each Room reached a sum of some £500 per annum, but the members of the different churches were always ready to encourage any increase of the work in every possible way. With the incoming of the men of the American army and navy the Lon-

Christmas at Langres, France

Le Mans, France

don churches were desirous of doing something to welcome especially the Christian Science soldiers and sailors. The delegates of the churches in the London district met in conference and the first proposal was to open a welcome bureau where men and officers could get any information they might require, and where they would be introduced to Scientists who would show them hospitality. As the idea developed, it was decided to open a hostel where sleeping accommodations should be provided. Accordingly a large and beautifully furnished house, close to the headquarters of the American army and navy, was rented and opened on August 1, 1918. The dining room was used as a quiet reading room, with all Mrs. Eddy's books and the current literature displayed. The two large drawing rooms, the windows of which looked out onto the Eaton Square Gardens, were arranged as a social room with writing tables and comfortable chairs.

A great number of men, some resident in London, and some coming from the camps, foreign service and ships, where quiet in which to study was almost impossible to obtain, expressed great gratitude for the opportunity afforded them by the Welfare House. Many who were not Christian Scientists stayed there and received their first introduction to Christian Science, and some became earnest students.

An American who knew very little of Christian Science was most impressed with the kindness and hospitality he received, and said: "We had the impression that the English were a cold, reserved, inhospitable race, but your welcome to us has been warm and generous beyond words. You folks in this place have done

more towards removing international prejudices than you can ever dream of." On many occasions men from America, Canada, Scotland, England, Australia and South Africa were seen conversing together, in practical demonstration of the drawing together of all the great English-speaking peoples in one great unity of purpose.

THE MOTHER CHURCH SCHEME

In July, 1918, a War Relief Committee for Great Britain and Ireland was appointed by the Christian Science Board of Directors to supervise all the existing War Relief activities in the United Kingdom and to extend the work to localities where a need was manifest. For this purpose a branch of The Mother Church War Relief and Camp Welfare Fund was opened and administered in this country by the newly appointed Committee. Prior to this date the expenses in connection with the ten Rooms opened for the use of the men in the service had been met entirely by the Christian Scientists locally. After the announcement of the scheme for the whole country the Committees which had already initiated and carried on the work gave their loyal support to the general plan and in a short time the work was adjusted and was progressing most satisfactorily. The decision to include the Reading and Writing Rooms for soldiers and sailors already existing in Great Britain, as part of The Mother Church scheme was fraught with great blessing, for the work leapt forward in a most wonderful way. War Relief Committees were quickly formed up and down the country, and within eight months,

twelve additional War Relief Rooms had been opened, which, with the Welfare House in London, brought the number up to twenty-three, with a total staff of forty-nine workers.

The ideal held clearly all through the work was found in a measure in the meaning of the word *relief* itself, which is defined variously as succor, support, deliverance, refreshment, consolation, comfort. The War Relief scheme of The Mother Church was recognized as bringing the message of the Comforter right down into the urgent problems of the hour. This ideal so inspired the work that all over the country men have looked on the War Relief Rooms as their home, and have turned there for help and encouragement. The endeavor was to place in charge workers who were practical Christian Scientists, who would be ready to take any opportunity that might present itself of serving the men, or the women in the auxiliary service, and equipping them to meet the experiences which lay before them. Every imaginable problem, mental, moral, physical, financial, has been laid before these workers and with remarkable success in the healing of the different conditions.

A special effort was made in the later development of the scheme to provide for the needs of the Americans, Australians, Canadians, New Zealanders and South Africans stationed in this country, and for this purpose War Relief Rooms were opened at several places used as American naval bases, or as Canadian or other camps. Many of these men who came thousands of miles overseas to fight for their highest ideal of good, have, through the War Relief Rooms, found the source of all such ideals.

After the signing of the armistice in November, 1918, a review of the conditions in Great Britain and Ireland revealed the fact that there still remained work of great importance to be done on behalf of the men in the navy and army, and that new opportunities were opening before the Workers for presenting the availability and steadfastness of Principle in this time of transition. In the ensuing six months several Rooms were opened and although only in operation for a short period of time, they accomplished excellent results.

INVERNESS

The first urgent demand for a War Relief Room came to the new Committee from the Highlands of Scotland, where a large American naval base was situated quite near the town of Inverness. In the vicinity there were also detachments of the Royal Defence Corps, Royal Army Service Corps, agricultural companies and a Canadian Forestry Headquarters. Most suitable premises were found just opposite the American Y. M. C. A. in the center of the town. The first Christian Science service held there was conducted by the Christian Science chaplain attached to the United States Navy, and was attended by American naval men of various ratings. Since that day in September, 1918, services were held regularly and conducted by the men themselves until the Room closed in April, 1919.

As there was no local Christian Science organization, a Worker from the north of England was appointed, and he and his wife set off as pioneers, in a true missionary spirit. They were equipped with spe-

War Relief Room, Belfast, Ireland

Reading and Writing Room at Bedford, England

The Rooms at Aldershot, England

cial military passes, since the north of Scotland was a prohibited area under the Defense of the Realm Act.

The boys of the United States Navy, operating with the Mine fleet, quickly found their way to the Room, seeking comfort and relief from the hard and stressful work in the North Sea, when the great mine barrage was being laid. At times the War Relief Room was crowded with boys who found in its quiet atmosphere the needed mental rest and peace. Some had a good understanding of the teachings of Christian Science and could apply it, but many more had little or nothing to turn to in an hour of need. These boys found in the Rooms a "home from home," and again and again were encouraged to return to their duties with a new strength born of an understanding of the omnipotence and everpresence of God.

During the influenza epidemic the Y. M. C. A. premises and the cinemas were closed, and the War Relief Room was crowded by the men. An American sailor, looking very ill, came into the Room one afternoon. He asked for treatment for influenza, which was immediately given to him, as he said he was feeling "all in." The Worker was then called to attend to the wants of other men and left the boy sitting there. In less than an hour he left, saying, "I am quite well now, and am going straight back to my duties."

PLYMOUTH

Shortly after the decision to open the work at Inverness, the needs of a town of naval importance in the south of England were brought up and plans were soon in hand to start the work in Plymouth. An

American naval base had been established there in June, from which a force of sixty-six submarine chasers operated under the general direction of the British naval Commander-in-Chief at that port. There were also a number of permanent camps round the town, as well as the dockyards, forts and naval and military hospitals spread over a wide area. War Relief Rooms were accordingly opened on the direct road between Plymouth and Devonport, along which hundreds of British and American bluejackets passed daily. Situated as they were in the very center of a neighborhood which offered numerous doubtful amusements to the sailor on shore, these Rooms had the opportunity and privilege of saving many mere boys from temptations of various kinds. In this connection a sailor writes:

"Oh, what a Godsend the Christian Science War Relief Rooms have been to me. Those most perfect evenings spent there while in the service have been of endless help and comfort. I recollect well how I fought with myself one evening between going to a Variety show and the War Relief Room, and the latter won. It was a long fight but the reward has been great. Since my first visit to the Room the Variety has had no attraction whatever for me."

A marine said to the Worker:

"I cannot tell you how grateful I am for these Rooms. They have saved me from so much I could only regret. Not that I am naturally vicious, but I had nowhere I cared to go, and in the streets temptation was flung at me from every corner."

The advent of such a quiet and uplifting rendezvous quickly became known at the large dockyards, and the members of the various forces soon began to show

their appreciation of this new provision for their spiritual as well as their physical welfare. Many proofs were soon forthcoming of the practical value of the work in healing sickness. On one occasion a non-commissioned officer received an instantaneous healing of influenza and was able to go on the range in charge of a firing party with no bad results. Other cases of influenza, violent toothache, hemorrhage, colds, etc., were healed by treatment or through the spoken word. The Worker writes:

"From the first day, we placed the work of the War Relief Room in the care and under the guidance of divine Love, and ever since it has been a guiding star to a large number of men and women, who have either directly or indirectly, through the war, been taken away from home influences. Many of those who have taken advantage of this latest gift to humanity knew little if anything about Christian Science or its Founder, Mrs. Eddy, and without exception, all have been grateful to hear about a religion which offered such a practical proof of its right to their earnest consideration. One of the chief American Y. M. C. A. workers here stated a few days ago that he had seen and heard enough about the Christian Science War Relief Rooms in Union Street to prove that they were indeed a blessing. With the cessation of hostilities the work has undergone a certain change but continues its healing activity just the same, for to use the words of a clergyman who called in to inquire about our work, 'The moral effect of such a Christlike effort is bound to be great.' "

BRIGHTON

In October the War Relief Committee for the county of Sussex reported the urgent need of a room in Brighton for the use of men from the large camps

round the town, amongst whom some splendid distribution had been done. The Christian Scientists were in this way already in touch with numbers of Canadian and British soldiers who, it was believed, would quickly find and value a War Relief Room. In and around the town itself there were a large number of hospitals full of Canadian and American wounded men, and the streets were thronged with convalescents in blue hospital uniforms.

Very attractive Rooms were opened in November, and on the first day several wounded men from the hospitals found their way in. Soldiers from the surrounding camps soon followed and the Rooms became a center especially for the Canadians and Americans. One day a Canadian soldier wounded on Paaschendale Ridge came in, saying that he was a Christian Scientist from New York City. His joy at finding the War Relief Rooms was touching. The following account is given by the Worker:

"In the heart of Brighton, a town well known for its temptations these Rooms are quietly and unostentatiously sending out their loving invitation to those who will hear. Limbless men from the Pavilion Hospital are coming more and more, also many Red Cross men. The news seems to be spreading like wildfire amongst the hospitals just lately and we feel very delighted that this is so. A Los Angeles man, at present in one of the hospitals, comes regularly to fetch the latest Monitor. He is so grateful and declares that the Monitor is the best paper in the world, and that he always finds news of home. It is a great joy to realize what these War Relief Rooms have done in extending help to many who are lonely and in need of kindness."

The Workers were in close touch with the hospitals from the beginning, and were called on

several occasions to cases of men wishing Christian Science treatment, particularly in the American hospitals. At one of these the matron asked for four copies of Science and Health to lend to the men under her charge as she had had several requests for Christian Science literature.

LIVERPOOL

In October, 1918, a War Relief Worker was appointed for Liverpool, and the first week was spent in visiting daily the large American camp at Knotty Ash, which accommodated 60,000 men, and learning the situation of the various quarters, the military regulations, and the names of the officers in charge. In this way information was obtained which afterwards proved most valuable, as to the correct authorities to apply to in order to expedite operations. In accordance with instructions received from the Commanding Officer, the first distribution of Monitors and Sentinels at this camp, was carried out with the cooperation of the Y. M. C. A. Every kindness was received from the officials here and had the armistice not intervened, Christian Science services would have been held in the Y. M. C. A. tent within the camp. But the armistice was the signal for the immediate reduction of the camp, in order that the men should be sent home as quickly as possible. Permission had already been obtained from the Commanding Officer of Debarkation for the distribution of the literature at the different stations and boats to the men coming into Liverpool, and signed permits to enter docks, embarkation stage, and stations were given to each distributor. Therefore,

when the return home of the troops commenced there was no delay. A neat little American Red Cross hut, which was not in use, was kindly lent by the Cunard Steamship Company, in which to store our papers, and permission was given to have our name displayed on the building.

Amongst the thousands of men who passed through Liverpool weekly, the Monitor was well known and appreciated and the remark was often heard, "It is a good paper, take one." On this recommendation the Monitor was taken by those who until then had not known of it. At each distribution, from four hundred to seven hundred Monitors were taken on board the ships by the men themselves. This personal method of distribution provided an opportunity for those in need of help to come forward and ask for treatment before going aboard, and letters of gratitude have been received from those benefited in this way. On one occasion a young sergeant was about to embark, but on seeing the Monitor held up, he asked if it were possible for him to obtain a textbook, as he had left his own with a man who seemed to need it more than he did. The vest-pocket Science and Health was at once given him, and was received with joy, and he said, "I knew divine Love would meet my need." Several officers have come up and asked for the literature and sometimes have told of the help and comfort they have received through Christian Science. The Sentinel was also asked for, and many men patted their vest pockets as they marched by, to show where "the little book" was treasured. From November, 1918, until April, 1919, 29,366 Monitors and 1521 Sentinels and pamphlets were distributed at Liverpool amongst

troops consisting of Americans, Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, Maoris and home-coming Britishers from the East.

On one occasion a body of 11,000 men, mostly from Boston and its districts, passed through on their way to embark for the East, and when they saw the Monitors, the distributors were nearly mobbed. The officer in charge came up and smilingly offered an apology for his men. He said they were nearly all from Boston, and knew and appreciated The Christian Science Monitor and thanked us for giving it to the men. Whilst they were lined up, the officer helped to distribute the literature and the Workers were glad to be able fully to supply the demand. The friendly feeling between the men and their officers was very noticeable as expressing harmony and confidence. When they marched towards the ship, Christian Science came in for an enthusiastic three cheers.

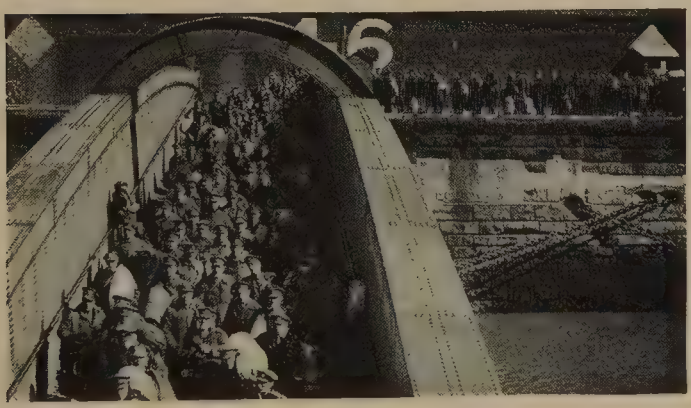
The first call for hospital treatment in Liverpool came at the outset of the work there, and since then several cases received Christian Science treatment. One of these was a soldier from California who was given up by the doctors on account of his excessive weakness. When the Worker reached his bedside, he seemed past speaking, but treatment was given immediately and two days afterwards he was taken to another hospital, his pulse and heart having regained sufficient strength for the doctors to operate. This man never looked back but gained health and strength rapidly and was soon discharged, finally returning home full of gratitude. Another man was distraught with pain for which the doctors could give him no relief, and he was considered to be beyond hope

of recovery. He asked a Y. M. C. A. worker to find a Christian Science practitioner, as he wanted to try Christian Science as a last resort. The War Relief Worker at once visited him and gave him the help he needed, with the result that he was relieved of pain for the first time since he had been wounded. He has gone on steadily and is now buoyant with hope and cheery with gratitude, gaining strength daily.

BELFAST

The War Relief Committee for county Antrim in Ireland, reported in the autumn of 1918 that a large number of troops were stationed in and around the town of Belfast, and that there were no less than fifteen camps within easy reach of the town, filled with English and Scottish troops, all the Irish troops having been withdrawn on account of the Sinn Fein disturbances. The ground had been well prepared for the establishment of a War Relief Room by the very thorough distribution of literature on the docks among the war and merchant ships, and throughout the camps. Passes were obtained giving entrance to every part of the docks on both sides of the river, even to the sections where men were working at high pressure, building war ships and repairing and camouflaging boats. The need for a War Relief Room became still more evident with the appearance of the American men-of-war in Belfast harbor. Whenever the broad-brimmed cap of the American sailor was seen in the streets of Belfast, the Workers set off to the docks to find the ship and supply it with Christian Science literature. Many of the military hospitals in

War Relief Rooms at Portsmouth, England



Distributing Monitors to troops at Liverpool, England

Ready for the service at Ripon, England

the town were filled with American convalescent troops. Belfast also attracted many Colonials who spent their leave there. After the War Relief Rooms were opened soldiers and sailors alike soon found their way in and it quickly became a much appreciated meeting place.

Many of the visitors had not even heard of Christian Science though they had traveled all through the war area, so that it was comforting to know that in opening these Rooms, even at the eleventh hour, Belfast had its part in introducing Christian Science to numerous soldiers. All the men went away happy and cheerful, saying they felt quite at home. One Irish soldier who was a frequent visitor, said he had no friends since his return, as they had all become Sinn Feiners and he felt very isolated because they would have nothing to do with anyone who had worn the King's uniform. He expressed his gratitude for the use of the Rooms and the friendliness of the other soldiers.

GLASGOW

In November the War Relief Committee for the county of Lanarkshire in Scotland opened a Room in a street adjoining a crowded thoroughfare in Glasgow, and good work was done there, especially for demobilized men. Several cases are on record of assistance being given to men in the problem of finding work, with very satisfactory results.

On one occasion a man came into the Room in great distress of mind on account of the unhappy circumstances he had found in his home when he returned on leave. During his absence his wife had got into unde-

sirable company and had practically broken up the home. He had brought her into town with their children and taken a little house for them, feeling that it would be easier for her to make a fresh start in different surroundings, but he was full of fear on her account. The Worker talked with him and helped him and gave him some literature, promising to go to see his wife. She visited the home next day, talked to the woman and gave her a pamphlet to read. Work was speedily found for her and she is now going on quietly building up her little home again. The Monitor and the Sentinel are sent regularly to the man, and in a recent letter he expressed his deep gratitude for the papers and for the help his family had received.

The Rooms were also used by men from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States, many of whom were either students of Christian Science or had relatives who were. Some of these men had found themselves forced to look into the subject for themselves by the difficulties they encountered in their army experience.

BUXTON

The work opened up next at Buxton, which, before the war, was a fashionable watering-place with numerous hotels and hydropathics situated among the hills of Derbyshire. During the war the nature of the place completely changed, invalids and pleasure-seekers being replaced by many hundreds of men in khaki and hospital blues. Buxton became one of the discharge depots for the Canadian forces, and in particular for married men who, with their wives, awaited

transport home, for periods varying from two weeks to several months. The hotels were converted into hospitals and convalescent homes for the wounded, large numbers of whom were to be seen strolling the streets with very little to occupy them. In January, 1919, the Rooms were opened by the War Relief Committee, and the Canadian flag was hung outside as a sign of welcome. The men began to come in at once, and within a fortnight the Rooms were occupied to their full capacity, and the Committee were obliged to consider the provision of further accommodation.

Although the Rooms were advertised as open between twelve and nine p.m., before nine in the morning the men were at the door begging for admission. It is estimated that within two months of the opening of the Rooms, over a thousand men had made use of them.

The Worker writes:

"There seem to be a great many new men in Buxton, and they find their way down here the first night. This week the attendance has been over three hundred. There are a number of men studying in the quiet room, and several have had talks with me, and say they want to begin at the rock bottom of Christian Science, so of course they have been referred to the textbook. The work gets more and more interesting and the men seem to be growing more and more receptive. They come in like hungry children waiting to be fed, and the way they come and ask to be helped is simply wonderful."

Men who have heard of Christian Science for the first time in Buxton, have returned to Canada with the determination to find a Christian Science Church and learn more of Truth. Many asked for copies of the textbook to study on the voyage home, for they

have found that there is after all a "balm in Gilead" which can be applied to every problem.

SEAFORD

In January, 1919, a War Relief Room was opened in Seaford in Sussex to extend the work already begun by the local Scientists on behalf of the Canadians stationed in the adjoining camps. These camps contained about 30,000 men and much excellent literature distribution had been carried on for some time. In this way the existence of the Rooms was brought immediately to the attention of the men, with the result that many times there were not enough chairs for all the men who flocked in. Within a few minutes of the actual opening of the Rooms a case was brought to the Worker for treatment. Since then much good healing has taken place. One man who had studied Christian Science long enough to be convinced of its truth, asked for help for a cold he had had two months, and was instantaneously healed. He then asked for treatment for his knee, which had been strained four months previously, and this trouble also yielded quickly. A shell-shock patient bordering on melancholia, and manifesting unhealthy conditions, came to the Rooms for healing, after reading Science and Health, lent him by a Christian Scientist in the same hut. He was in Seaford for five days and took away a copy of the textbook, intending to study it faithfully during his leave. He has since written to tell of his healing and says he feels perfectly well and is happy and contented. The Room has been a home to many Canadians who have greatly appreciated the loving sympathy shown them at all times.

War Relief Rooms, Seaford, England

PORTSMOUTH

The needs of Portsmouth were next urgently brought forward as being those of a large naval base, which was at the same time the headquarters of two great branches of the marines and of a branch of Garrison Artillery. The town was also one of the American military hospital bases. Accordingly in the spring of 1919, a War Relief Room was opened and promptly made use of by men in all branches of the service. A large percentage of these men came in to write their letters, but remained to read. Many of them made friends with the Worker in charge and brought him their problems for solution.

A gunner came in one day and said he wanted to know about Christian Science, and would like the textbook. It appeared that before going to France, he had been stationed in a fort where one of the garrison was a Christian Scientist. He became friendly with this man and was very much struck by his earnestness, for, though often subjected to chaff and ridicule, he would stand up and say that Christian Science was the thing he valued more than anything else in his life. The example of this man had such an effect on the gunner that when he saw the notice of the War Relief Rooms put up in the barracks, he determined to go and learn something of Christian Science. He inquired immediately for the textbook, saying he was going on night duty and very much wanted to read it. Through the study of Science and Health he was healed of the smoking habit and of severe pain in his hand and arm caused by a gunshot.

A sailor came into the Portsmouth Rooms one day

and told the Worker that during the war, Monitors were sent regularly to his ship. He used to look through them casually, but one day was attracted by the Home Forum page and read an article called "Heaven." This so took hold of him that he borrowed Science and Health from the ship's library and commenced to study. He said that there were about twenty Scientists on his ship, consisting of all ranks from the commander to the pantry boy. This man had learned of the War Relief Room from one of the notices in the mess. He longed to possess a copy of Science and Health and study the lesson-sermons, for he had been unable to read regularly since leaving his ship. A vest-pocket edition was accordingly given him, together with the Bible and Quarterly, and he left the Room delighted at the prospect of being able to read and study once more.

READING

The necessity of starting a War Relief Room in Reading, Berkshire, lay in the fact that several thousands of soldiers were billeted or stationed in that town and that a large number of hospitals for wounded men were in active operation. While there were one or two Y. M. C. A.'s and Church Army Rooms, there was a great desire amongst the men for a quiet place in which to read and write. From the moment the decision was made to establish such a room, all the arrangements developed most harmoniously and rapidly. On the day of opening, the Room was used at once in the luncheon hour by men from an adjoining military office. One young soldier who

had found little to mitigate the rigors of military life, wrote shortly after the opening:

"Fortunately a Christian Science War Relief Room has been opened here quite recently, just outside the Army Service Corps offices, as luck would have it, and I go over there of an evening and my friends come with me, including M. and several others who love to sit by the warm fires. . . . Certainly the fires and cozy carpeted floors of these Christian Science Rooms, to say nothing of the loving help of the ladies in charge, have been a Godsend to me and poured oil on the troubled waters. These places are all over the shop now."

The county Committee for Berkshire says in one of its reports:

"There have been many expressions of gratitude for these Rooms, for the quiet and comfort found there. Many men come regularly and new ones are constantly finding their way here. A man came in to write a letter one evening, and thanked the Worker before he left, saying he had not spent such a comfortable evening in Reading before, and added, 'We could not do without these places.' An army chaplain came in to write some letters and said it was very kind of us to have such nice places for the men, and he hoped they were appreciated. It is interesting to see the help the men get, and how they gradually begin to get freer. One evening a man, suffering great pain, came in and had a talk with the Worker. A passage from Science and Health was given to him to study and the next day he came to say he had been healed. Another man who could hardly keep his foot still on account of pain caused by a sword wound, came to the Room. The next time he appeared he said he had had no pain since the day he visited the War Relief Room."

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Distribution of Christian Science literature had been steadily carried on during the war amongst the soldiers stationed at Tunbridge Wells in the county of Kent, and in the spring of 1919, efforts were made to obtain premises for a War Relief Room. The same conditions obtained here as in the other towns, namely, that all available places were under the control of the military authorities who would not release them, but at last suitable rooms were secured and opened late in March.

The first case of healing in the Rooms was that of a man who had been badly hurt by a kick in his side at football. He asked for Christian Science treatment, and came back to the Rooms two hours later to say that all was well, and there was no occasion for any more work to be done for him.

A soldier who had been in similar rooms at Newcastle and Ripon, came in and after writing a letter, stated that he anticipated spending most of his afternoons there reading Science and Health. He expressed much gratitude for the good he had received in the War Relief Rooms, and said how very much he had been helped to overcome bad habits.

A corporal came in one day and gave an excellent account of the support Science had been to him in France. He told how he had been able to hearten men who were to go "over the top" and how many a time—in the tightest places—he and all his men had come back safe, which he attributes entirely to his knowledge of Christian Science and that of the numerous Scientists among his men. He had been origi-

In the Room at Inverness, Scotland

Reading and Writing Room, Dublin, Ireland

nally in the navy and was an engineer on board the *Crecy* when she was torpedoed, and all through that trying experience he had felt entire confidence in the power that saved him.

With the opening of the Rooms the increase of interest in Christian Science amongst the civilian population at Tunbridge Wells was very marked and the whole day long, men, women and children were to be seen reading the literature which was attractively displayed in the window. Many came in to ask questions and were sent to the Christian Science Reading Rooms of the local society. The local Scientists themselves feel great gratitude on this account, and know that, although the War Relief Rooms were open only for a short time, they fulfilled their mission.

BLANDFORD

At Blandford in the county of Dorset, a new camp to accommodate about 18,000 men was opened early in the war and eventually taken over by the Royal Air Force. The camp, which extended over a wide area and was very isolated, included also a large number of the members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and of the Women's Royal Air Force. The good work of a small group of local Christian Scientists culminated in the appointment of the first and only Christian Science Welfare Worker officially permitted to live and work inside a military camp in Great Britain. The advent of the Worker was warmly welcomed by the General in command, who placed a large vacant hut on one of the main roads inside the

camp at the disposal of the Committee for Great Britain and Ireland, and offered every facility in the way of labor and materials towards converting the hut into a suitable Reading Room.

With the exception of not having a commission, the status of the War Relief Worker was in every respect that of a chaplain. He was given an open camp pass, a free permit to ride on any War Department vehicle and was an honorary member of the officers' mess. At mess there was often a good deal of banter about Christian Science, but this was always readily answered and very often led to earnest inquiry and in some cases to a request for metaphysical help and a grateful acknowledgment of instantaneous healing. On one occasion the Worker was sent for to help at an officers' sing-song where much drinking was going on. His influence and knowledge of music so improved the situation that the drinking ceased.

Everyone in the camp, Padres and officers included, cooperated with the Worker and showed many signs of their appreciation of the Room. A portion of the hut was partitioned off at the special request of their commanding officer for the use of recruits under eighteen years in training for the Royal Air Force. These boys, who were arriving in weekly drafts of from two to three hundred, were quite undisciplined and many of them drawn from the slums. This officer started a system of certificates for good conduct to be issued on the recommendation of the non-commissioned officer and signed by the officer in charge, entitling the bearer to the use of the War Relief Room. These permits became a great incentive to good behavior amongst the boys. All the old Christian Sci-

ence Monitors were eagerly sought after by one of the officers in charge of the boys' section, who wrote:

"May I ask a favor? A few weeks ago you gave me some Christian Science papers (Monitors) which I distributed amongst the boys. Ever since I have been importuned for your papers, and should esteem it a favor if you could possibly send me thirty copies a week."

The Room was in constant use from early morning until late in the evening, by both men and women, and work of a most valuable and far-reaching character was carried on. Services were held twice on Sundays and notice of these appeared in the general military orders issued on Fridays. These orders contained a list of the recognized religious services permitted in camp, for which leave from army duties was granted without question. The lists were hung in every orderly room throughout the camp.

Large drafts for overseas service passed through Blandford camp and these men and women, en route for Italy, France and Russia, asked for the Christian Science Room because it had become widely known that nothing was too much trouble to the Workers, and many and varied were the services rendered to these passing visitors.

A W. A. A. C. who was going on five days' leave, came in and told the Worker she felt so ill she would never be able to make the journey. She received help and called next day to say she was fit and well. She sent a postcard three days later to let the Worker know all was going splendidly.

The staff of the Y. M. C. A., when the Worker called with a supply of Christian Science Monitors one day, insisted on keeping him to lunch, saying as

they were reaping of his spiritual gifts he must at least share their material ones. The Padres of other denominations were also very happy about the advent of the War Relief Room at Blandford, and not only did they frequently visit it themselves, but they were anxious their boys should do so. So in the words of the Worker:

"We are all just one big happy family working together for God, if through different channels, still with the same spirit, trying to remember that 'God ordains no other bands, than united hearts and hands' " (Christian Science Hymnal).

The men and women who have heard of Christian Science through the War Relief Rooms and have taken up the study have, in frequent instances, not only been healed themselves, but have carried the good news back to their homes and have there demonstrated the understanding gained. The story is recorded of a young soldier who, with only a dawning knowledge of the teachings of Christian Science, healed instantaneously two of his mates who were ill with influenza. Another man returning home on leave found his wife seriously ill, and after telling her of his new-found knowledge of God, and reading to her passages from the textbook, to his great joy she declared she was healed and able to attend to her work again. Many accounts have come in of men who "facing fearful odds" on land and sea, have come through unscathed and who attribute their safety to their understanding of Christian Science. The Workers in the different Rooms testify that the men have seemed as though they were literally hungering and thirsting after righteousness and that, having received the bread of life, they have in their turn "borne this

bread from house to house, *breaking* (explaining) it to others" (Science and Health, page 33).

A record of the work in Great Britain and Ireland would not be complete without reference to the splendid literature distribution that has been carried on throughout the country since the early days of the war. This was first made possible through the generosity of the Trustees under the Will of Mary Baker Eddy, and later through the War Relief Fund. Quantities of Christian Science literature have been distributed far and wide to the army and navy and in this way have reached the training camps, the Y. M. C. A. huts, the hospitals, the trenches, the fleet on patrol in the North Sea, and the vessels of the mine-sweeping fleet all round the coast. Numbers of letters have been received from men engaged in many widely differing war time vocations in different parts of the world, telling of the timely help and comfort which have so often come to them through the literature. Early in 1917 permission was obtained to send literature regularly to a number of British and Canadian prisoners of war in Germany and to men interned in Holland. Literature has also been supplied to German prisoners of war in internment camps in Great Britain and many of the men who have been repatriated have gone back to Germany with Christian Science literature in their pockets.

In the spring of 1919 it was clearly recognized that the emergency that had brought the War Relief scheme into being was fast disappearing and that much of the splendid work undertaken by the Committees could be transferred to the Christian Science churches and societies. It was felt that the time had

come to put the work back onto a peace basis and to link up the soldier, sailor or demobilized man, who so desired, with the existing Christian Science organizations. In many places the local churches recognized the opportunity and opened their Reading Rooms to suit the convenience of the men after the closing of the War Relief Rooms, and in this way have undertaken the work of assisting the soldiers back to civil life. An enlarged concept of what War Relief work has meant to the movement and of what the movement can do for humanity has in this way been gained. From different parts of the country evidence has come in to show that the War Relief work has greatly strengthened the churches in the different localities. In some instances Christian Science Societies have been formed in towns where the War Relief activities have drawn the Scientists together and encouraged them to go forward. And not only have groups of Christian Scientists been drawn together in this service to their fellow men, but there has grown up a clearer consciousness of the unity of the whole Christian Science movement and of its great mission for the salvation of mankind.

The gathering of the harvest of the War Relief work is an impossible task, for like the good seed of the parable, the multiplying is beyond possibility of record, but there is manifold evidence that these activities have brought nearer the day when "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

VII

A UNIQUE COMMITTEE

"These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."—Luke 11 : 42.

A HAPPY world in quiet action lay. Its humble tasks, its homely joys, filled each succeeding day. Sunrise and sunset, the morning lark, the evening thrush marked time, while men and women ceased their plowing for the planting, the weeding for the reaping. The hidden root, the plant, the vine and every fruit-filled tree was yielding up its increase, and strains of gratitude borne on the August breezes, hinted the oncoming harvest. So lay the world in active peace, when a flash, a peal, a thunderous roll announced the foe. Hell's stores were opened, and an anguished world convulsed.

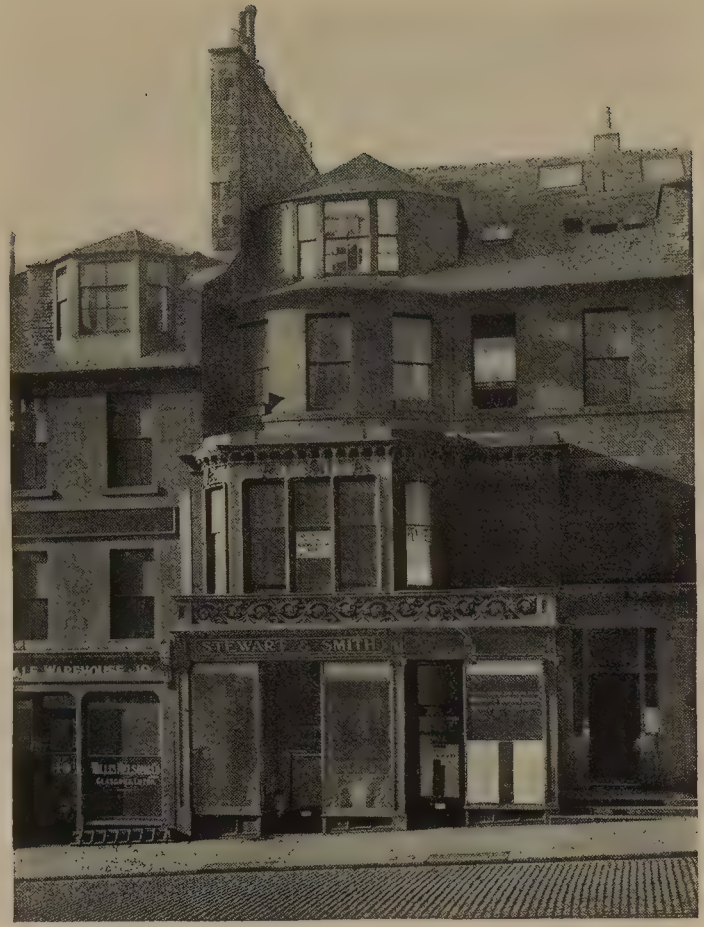
The first faint, piteous moan touched the pitying heart, and help went out to relieve it; but the moan gave way to one great human, globe-encircling cry, and, Deo gratias, a world of love went out to meet it. Through men this quick response took arms. What could it do through women? Much. It could say to the enlisting men: "The womanhood of the world is with you; it will provide you warmth and comfort; it will bring you cheer, encouragement, and even joy." To the widow and the fatherless it could say: "The great mother-heart of the universe embraces you; lean on it; for it will feed you, clothe you, comfort you."

The Christian Scientists, with those of every other creed and faith, heard the call and answered, using at first the only available means. Individually they gave their services to existent relief organizations; in groups they purchased wool in quantities, knitting and teaching the use of the needles to others less proficient, made and fitted comfort bags, and distributed the results to individuals in the service. Calls for bags and knitted garments, however, steadily increased, and while they were met with rapidly increasing labor, the lack of an organized clearing house was keenly felt. There seemed to be one clear, insistent call:

> "Make channels for the streams of love,
> Where they may broadly run;
> And love has overflowing streams
> To fill them ev'ry one."

The call was heard, plans quickly developed, and through the courtesy of the Board of Directors, headquarters were opened in the house owned by the church, at 191 Huntington Avenue, Boston. Here yarn was sold, model garments exhibited, and all knitted wear received and distributed. Even this step toward systematization added a stimulus to individual efforts. For example, one woman turned her house into a workshop for several days, for the making of the first twenty sweater vests, the garment that "fitted so well," was "so soft and warm," and had "such a nice feeling."

It was during this period that the Halifax disaster occurred, and the value of a well-constructed organization, vitalized with love and intelligence, was manifested. The response of the Scientists to their brothers' needs was almost overwhelming; and in an incredibly



War Relief Rooms, Edinburgh, Scotland

Christian Science Welfare House, 112 Eaton Square, London, England

short time the donated garments, both old and new, were assorted and shipped, bringing forth from one of the Canadian authorities the statement that never had he seen a more practical manifestation of genuine Christianity.

The joy of self-forgetfulness, of seeking one's own in another's good, put a new value upon the "odd moments," and quickened the click of the needles. Knitted garments came in, in ever increasing numbers and varieties. Yet, though human need was daily increasing, and the stream of warmth and comfort necessary to meet it was daily deepening and broadening, suddenly every facility for larger giving was shut off. The locks were closed, as it were, and the stream held up without an outlet. What was the matter? What was lacking? What the one thing needful? Prayer for enlightenment was answered: ours was "a deed without a name." If we were acting "in His name" we could say so. Quickly appeared the little label "Comforts Forwarding Committee. Christian Scientists." The locks swung open at its touch, and the liberated stream poured out uninterruptedly to the end. The question of knitting was settled, but other needs were now arising. What of the soft, warm garments and other accessories so necessary to the comfort of the men in the hospitals and resting camps? What, too, of the refugees? "I was . . . naked, and ye clothed me." A moment saved is a moment earned, and a needed, kindly deed no waste. Moreover, what messages of love, of truth, could go forth with every garment. "The divinity of the Christ was made manifest in the humanity of Jesus" (Science and Health, page 25); the tender love of the Church of Christ, Scientist, could now declare itself in a new, tender and

practical way to all mankind. The universal language is its own interpreter. The decision was quickly reached, the last doubt silenced, and every woman was free to express in some measure her sympathy.

Every great movement lies first in embryo, in an expanding area of human consciousness, until its necessity find utterance through someone fitted to express it. Such an one invited to her home ten other Scientists, each making there a sample garment which she took to her own home, together with material for one hundred and ten similar garments. Her home became the meeting-place for another unit of ten, of which she was the captain, each of whom took her garment, together with material for ten more, to her home, where she became the captain of still another unit. In this simple way, quietly, unostentatiously, one thousand one hundred and ten new garments could be turned out each week; and as the more expensive material of one week was offset by a simpler one the next, the weekly individual payment of twenty-five cents covered, in the beginning, the cost of production.

Widening activities necessitated larger headquarters, and the ground floor and basement at 328 Boylston Street were rented. This was a thrilling moment for the women. Right in the midst of the city's business interests, on an attractive corner of an attractive street, they were to open a place which in every detail should manifest to the world just how Christian Science is operative in human affairs. Still mindful of the object for which they were working, they could make the scene of their activities a gladsome spot to the heavily burdened business men, to the sobered women shoppers, to the workers in other

relief organizations and even to the students, all of whom were passing it in hundreds every day.

To begin with, the windows must be indicative of the spirit within. They must tell the passer-by not, primarily, what garments were being fashioned, but what qualities of thought were multiplying for the encouragement of the soldier and the solace of the refugee. They must talk of life itself, speak forth comfort, warmth and affluence. One window, lined with yellow, displaying every kind of knitted wear in blue, gray and khaki, and piled up high with bales of wool, was in itself an invitation to the uniformed men to bask in its sunshine; and when one side was hung with gay colored comfort bags, the contents—a veritable Christmas tree—spilled out in front of them, while on the other side were sewing kits, so complete yet so compact, was it any wonder that the blue and khaki boys gathered there to smile, and felt that there would be some moments of almost play, while defending the flags that crowned the window?

Perhaps it was that pretty pink bag in the corner, flaunting its abundance of gay roses, that called forth from the recipient this jolly letter:

"Dear Friend Someone: I was very much pleased to get a fine comfort kit from you yesterday. It certainly had the comforts. A little bit of a bag of buttons, that was really what I most needed. Oh, there were lots of buttons in it, but it looked so tiny and stuffy I had to laugh. . . . The pins, the thread, the kerchiefs, soap, both shaving and hand, talcum powder, laces, oh, I can't think what all was there. And everything just fits me. I know I won't need any more shaving soap for a long time, for my beard doesn't grow fast. You know we're not any of us very old men. I never think how old I am; just keep feeling glad at how young I feel.

Perhaps my feelings are the only thing that doesn't belong to Uncle Sam, yet I feel contented, like my work, and study and try to get ahead. Isn't that the way to do? Don't you admire the paragraphing in this note? I think it's fine. But you know we mustn't waste even paper. Will someone waste a post card on me, or—never mind, I'm satisfied with what I have. Thanks a whole lot."

Of course if you were a man in the service you peeked through the window to see what was going on beyond it; and you caught a glimpse of smiling women behind a counter, selling yarn and yarn and still more yarn to the women in front. Then you couldn't help walking in, for somehow everything seemed to talk to you of the things you wanted said, and a warm welcome was sung into your very soul. On entering, you found a bunch of boys trying on sweaters and helmets and wristers, expressing their desires like little children in a toy shop, and receiving them without stint; even, as one boy exclaimed, without being asked what church they belonged to. If you looked beyond that pile of knitted wear which seemed to envelop you, your eyes rested upon a group of young girls who belonged to no unit, but who spent their spare moments making and filling comfort bags, sewing on labels, etc.; and then your gaze was drawn irresistibly over the intervening space, filled with desks for the clerical part of the movement, to a platform where the knitting machines were running to full capacity, and socks, those "Christian Science socks," as the boys called them, because they were "so soft," and "didn't shrink," were issuing in hundreds.

But not all of you were men; some of you were women, and therefore after looking over the knitted wear to "get ideas," you stepped to the window be-

DISTRIBUTION GRATUITE

DE

Christian Science

par les soins de Mme RINGUIER, 5, Rue Mariolle

Le COMITÉ LYON-SAINT-QUENTIN a reçu, en trois jours, - 26, 27, 28 Mai — 2242 inscriptions de Familles, représentant environ 10.000 personnes. Les 2242 fiches numérotées ont été remises à Madame Ringuier, le Jeudi 29 Mai, au moment où elle achevait l'inventaire des caisses attribuées à Saint-Quentin-Ville, lequel totalisait 13.233 OBJETS. La distribution aura lieu par série de 200, du 16 au 27 JUIN.

Il y a **beaucoup de vêtements pour fillettes**, exactement **6.942** objets qui sont maintenant classés par âges : 1.774 robes, 2.305 robes de dessous, 489 tabliers, 1.256 pantalons, 749 chemises, etc. C'est le lot le plus important et il est composé de très jolies choses.

Par contre, il y a **peu de vêtements pour hommes**. Sur les 3.791 objets il faut compter 3.108 paires de chaussettes, 524 chandails, etc.

Pour les **dames**, nous avons un lot de **1.075** objets, dont : 105 matinées, 147 couvertures et 363 jolis peignoirs d'hiver.

Pour les garçonnets, il y a **1.425** objets variés.

Il ressort de ces chiffres que nous devrons "charger" les BONS sur lesquels il y a des fillettes, en réduisant la part des papas et mamans, pour confectionner les paquets des familles où il n'y a pas de fillettes.

∴

Nous rappelons que les paquets sont confectionnés d'après la composition de la famille et d'après la catégorie :

1° Les personnes qui n'ont jamais rien reçu ;
2° Celles qui ont déjà reçu une fois ;
3° Celles qui ont déjà reçu de plusieurs œuvres.

Ceci dit pour expliquer que les paquets n'auront pas la même importance pour des familles composées d'autant de personnes

∴

Nous avons en réserve une centaine de **MAGNIFIQUES LAYETTES**, qui seront distribuées au fur et à mesure des naissances à la Maternité de l'Hôtel-Dieu.

Il y a peu de chaussures à distribuer, car nous avons envoyé les galoches à semelles de bois dans quelques villages au lieu et place de vêtements.

Toutes ces jolies choses, que nous devons à la générosité des dames de **Christian Science**, — que Mme Ringuier a remerciées au nom de la population — sont absolument neuves.

Les personnes devront conserver leur fiche numérotée qui servira pour le tirage au sort des 15 machines à coudre.

∴

La confection des paquets étant en bonne voie, nous pourrons commencer la **distribution le Lundi 16 Juin**, et la continuer tous les jours, de **4 heures à 6 h. 1/2** jusqu'à épuisement des 2.242 paquets.

Pour éviter la bousculade, nous distribuerons une série de 200 paquets par jour. Comme les paquets préparés à l'avance sont empilés les uns sur les autres nous serons obligés de suivre l'ordre. Les 75 premiers numéros de la série devront se présenter entre 4 et 5 heures, les 75 suivants entre 5 et 6 heures et les 50 derniers entre 6 et 6 h. 1/2.

De cette façon, pas de perte de temps.

PAS DE BOUSCULADE (prendre la file s. v. p.)

∴

Ordre de la Distribution par Séries de 200

Tous les jours, de 4 h. à 6 h. 1/2

Lundi	**16 Juin**	Série de	**1**	à	**200**
Mardi	**17 Juin**	—	**201**	à	**400**
Mercredi	**18 Juin**	—	**401**	à	**600**
Jeudi	**19 Juin**	—	**601**	à	**800**
Vendredi	**20 Juin**	—	**801**	à	**1.000**
Samedi	**21 Juin**	—	**1.001**	à	**1.200**
Lundi	**23 Juin**	—	**1.201**	à	**1.400**
Mardi	**24 Juin**	—	**1.401**	à	**1.600**
Mercredi	**25 Juin**	—	**1.601**	à	**1.800**
Jeudi	**26 Juin**	—	**1.801**	à	**2.000**
Vendredi	**27 Juin**	—	**2.001**	à	**2.242**

Le **TIRAGE AU SORT** des **15 MACHINES A COUDRE** aura lieu le **DIMANCHE 29 JUIN** à 10 heures du matin, sous le péristyle du **THÉATRE. Seuls, les Membres de la Commission, auront accès sur les marches.**

La Commission sera composée de MM. Ringuier, Tricotteaux et Charles Deschamps, Conseillers d'Arrondissements, auxquels sont priées de se joindre, comme témoins, les personnes à qui le hasard a attribué les BONS N°s **200, 400, 600, 800, 1000, 1200, 1400, 1600, 1800, 2000, 2200.**

Les 15 Numéros gagnants seront affichés aussitôt

LE PAYOT, PARIS

yond; and after exclaiming over the Carbone vase with its pussy willows, or wondering how wild ferns and violets and lady's-slippers happened to grow in a window, you settled down to an exhaustive survey of the attractive garments before you. What a layette,—with its thirty-six pieces, so very white, so sensible, so complete! What unwelcome baby, what stricken mother, would be comforted and encouraged by that? Those little shirts, made so deftly from adults' garments that one hardly suspected their origin; those warm yet dainty bootees in pink and white and blue; the baby bonnets crocheted of softest wool; surely it was not hard routine, but warm, inspired love that fashioned these. The baby blankets and little jackets lay just beyond, but your practical mind was already contemplating the garments on the right, complete outfits for both winter and summer wear, for girls from two to fourteen years of age; the undergarments all so new and strong and durable; the dresses simple in design and serviceable. A belt, a pocket, a bit of braid or embroidery, however, lifted them into the realm of the custom-made, and gave evidence of the loving thought of the makers.

Then, too, there were outfits for boys between the ages of six and twelve; blouses that looked a bit expensive for the times, because there was nothing to reveal the fact that they had been made from some man's choicest shirts which had become worn at the neck. How diminutive, too, were those little trousers, especially when one thought of the castaway garments from which they were cut. But they were not all "made-overs." Those smart suits of blue denim, for instance; who could have designed them? And, oh, those policemen's and firemen's uniforms, children's

size, made just to send a thrill through the hearts of the little boys who should wear them! You were wondering why there was such a lack of color, as your eyes fell upon a pile of black sateen ties for the girls, all so carefully made, so neatly pressed and folded, and for a moment you thought only of mourning. Upon inquiry, however, you learned that the children in France had always worn that kind; that bright colors, especially red, were to them the insignia of the devil, and therefore to be avoided. You couldn't wait to look at the garments for older girls (there were none for older boys—they were all in uniform) and for the mothers; you only glanced at the pajamas and the gray and pink day shirts for the men in the hospitals. You, too, must get behind that attractive window, to see what was going on inside. Being a woman, you instantly exclaimed, "What order; what neatness!" There were samples of every garment being made, with women to tell you all about them. Cut garments, all in their proper places, stood ready to be sold to the units. One shelf made you think of those wonderful gardens at Bellaggio, all roses and wistaria and azaleas, and you couldn't think what it contained, until the fascinating cretonnes were shaken out before you, to make your choice for comfort bags. Beyond, a unit was holding its weekly meeting, and fingers were flying, machines singing, while women were discussing, and showing each other, the quickest and neatest way to finish a collar or put in a sleeve.

"Oh, you are so clean here, so orderly," exclaimed the head of another relief organization. "How do you do it?"

"You seem to be able to count upon your workers. Some days we have seventy-five, and some days only three," was the comment of the manager of a neighboring committee.

"Yes, we are well organized, our work is systematized, and the true Christian Scientist means to fulfill his responsibilities."

It was that cheerful response to the call for help that placed in the basement a splendid corps of workers, where all garments, both new and secondhand, were assorted and packed in great cases for shipping. It was not the easiest part of the work, or the most decorative, but the same neatness and exactness were demanded; and the murmur of happy voices punctuated with occasional ripples of laughter, which reached the workers on the floor above, gave evidence of the joy below. What a happy sense of cooperation it all gave rise to.

This cooperation, however, was not limited to Greater Boston. Hardly had the work there taken definite form, before Scientists all over the country, from ocean to ocean, and from Hawaii and the Canal Zone to Alaska, expressed a desire to share in it, and were gladly hailed as allies. One group after another joined the happy throng, until there were seven hundred and eighty-nine. There was no stereotyped method of organization. The units varied in size, some meeting in private houses, while others preferred public workrooms. In some of the larger cities a number of such rooms were opened, in different localities, all uniting in general headquarters for receiving and distributing the garments. Varying methods were employed, too, for the raising of funds, some preferring per capita assessments, others de-

pending upon voluntary contributions. Nor was the work confined to the regulation garments. Each committee used its ingenuity in supplying the unexpected. One, for instance, made some rag dolls, "pretty enough to bring a ray of joy to the heart of the most saddened child," for the little ones in France and Belgium, and received in return the following letter:

"To the Secretary of the Comforts Forwarding Committee: Thank you so much for the darling rag dolls; they will bring joy to many little French kiddies on Christmas morning, when they will know that the good American Santa Claus sent his message of love.

"Tell all of your workers that they are doing an immense amount of good by making these toys for the children of stricken France. We must not forget that it is as important to support the morale of the civilians and the soldiers, as to care for their physical needs. The little children must have toys, as the soldiers must have letters, to soothe a present pain, and to reveal a future of hope.

"We must, in so far as it is possible, dispel from the minds of the children of France, the horror and suffering of this war, for France's great hope lies in her little ones.

"On behalf of our Committee, and on behalf of the children of France, I thank you and all who have so generously helped in the making of this precious gift.

"I am, very truly yours,"

(Signed by the Secretary, American Fund for French Wounded.)

One Committee gave to a base hospital unit, leaving for Italy, thirty beautiful rag rugs for their own use, besides supplying each of the two hundred men with a good pocket knife, in a leather case, each bearing the name of the Committee in gold.

A UNIQUE COMMITTEE

One day the window at the headquarters in Boston assumed an entirely new aspect. From a distance it looked like flag day, but closer inspection revealed the most wonderful collection of picture books, made by children for their little friends on the other side. Only childhood's genuine humor, its love of color, of the mysterious, could have made such a splendid choice of pictures; and only unstudied art could have arranged them so artistically. It was not strange that a passer-by stepped in to see if any could be bought.

Several of the committees exercised their ingenuity in making slumber robes. The soft gray and white ones, brightened by a bit of pink or blue, plainly were for the little tots. Then came larger ones, made of tailors' samples and warmly lined, for the comfort of the men in the hospitals. Sometimes they contained surprise pockets, with a cheering word tucked in for the man who was clever enough to find it. One veritable novelty was a slumber robe made of pennants—an inexhaustible source of amusement to the boys in one of the convalescent hospitals. What trip could one not take traveling under so many flags! So great was the demand for this robe in the hospital that it was generally engaged in advance for the following day, and to keep it only half of one's allotted time and then pass it on to another, was plainly one of the sacrifices of the war.

Two demands only were made of every unit: that the staple garments conform to the rules sent out from headquarters, rules which had been obtained from those cognizant of the methods and customs in the various countries to which the clothes were to be sent; and that all work press toward perfection. At times there came the temptation to show our sisters

across the seas a more comely way of dressing themselves, especially in these days of silhouettes, to say nothing of a simpler way to dress their pillows. Their pillow-cases were far too complicated for the practical American mind. It was a little difficult, too, always to remember that the French and British hospitals had never agreed as to whether hospital garments should be made with the seams inside or out. However, one fact was clearly recognized, that love meets the other man's need as it is, and not as someone thinks it ought to be. Meanwhile the thousands of sewers were gradually giving up their fixed habits, practicing patience by cheerfully ripping and sewing a second time, or even a third, if necessary to the sending out of a model garment; and learning to finish their small, even stitches with thread securely fastened. It was this effort to do their best which resulted in the query from another relief organization handling their goods:

"Are all your workers trained sewers?"

"No."

"Then how do you account for your work being so exceptional? I had always thought that Christian Science was an idealistic religion."

"So it is,—a practical idealism; a religion which governs every act of our lives even to the sewing on of buttons. There is a perfect standard of sewing, and Christian Scientists having that before them when making these garments, do all to the glory of God."

Yes, to the glory of God, to the glory of One whose standard is perfection, but whose infinitude admits of variety of expression. Love paints the petals, but never two exactly alike; and it was the same love that tipped the "Christian Science socks" with so many

pretty bits of color, that gave individual designs to scarfs, and thought out numberless attractive ways of ornamenting sweaters, even to the weaving of U. S. A. across the front. It was the same love that slipped a pretty hair ribbon, or daintily bordered handkerchief into the pocket of a child's dress; that made all the infant clothes, and thousands of handkerchiefs for the men, by hand, in order to avoid the harshness of machine work.

Unpacking the cases of goods that came in daily certainly had its joys and its surprises, for the whole field felt the spirit of the work, with results that expressed not deadening labor, but living activity. And the spirit which pervaded the groups reached even the units of one—individuals living in obscure little hamlets. Cut materials were mailed to them, and the finished garments returned in the same way. Thus space was annihilated, and the most isolated Christian Scientist felt only her unity with the whole cause.

Among the many interesting contributions was that of some Alaskan Indians, living only sixty-five miles from the Arctic Circle, from a friend of whom came the following letter:

"Near us across the river Yukon is a small mining camp and a native village. As the Indian women were anxious to help I suggested that they make little moccasins, as leather is scarce and shoes expensive. Most of us wear moccasins here in winter, and many wear them all summer; and the little people, both whites and natives, wear them. So the moccasins, made from their very firmest skins, were sent in for me to forward, sixteen pairs in all. This was an act of love and generosity that I must mention, as most of these women have babies of their own and are extremely busy, and the articles made from their moose skins and sold to the

whites, constitute a big part of their living. Nettie Mayo Bergman, for instance, had a tiny baby, another only a year old, yet she donated two pairs for some stricken little ones. Old Grandma Pitka, who speaks no English, and who takes care of a paralytic husband and a little grandson, sent me word that no one had asked her to make moccasins, but she wanted to help if it was not too late. So her donation is with the others.

"Always the Indians have had things given to them and done for them, and I never saw them so happy as they are now, learning that they can help someone else."

With the moccasins came a group picture of the women and children who had made them. After both had been exhibited in the window of the Boston headquarters, the moccasins were carefully sewed into a box and forwarded, with the photograph, to France.

The spontaneity of the whole field again necessitated larger headquarters in Boston. The sales department, together with the knitting machines, moved to 460 Boylston Street, while one whole floor of a large automobile building on Beacon Street became the wholesale house of supply, and the scene of great activity. Despite the prevailing scarcity of wool, sufficient quantities were obtained by the Comforts Forwarding Committee to supply not only the workers in the immediate vicinity, but to answer the calls from all over the field. Blankets for convalescent robes, as handsome as market ever produced, were purchased, and sold to the various units to be made. Countless bolts of khaki eider down were bought for the making of sweater vests, "the finest garment ever put out by any organization," according to some of the army officers. Indeed the quantity of materials

required often necessitated passing over the wholesale dealer and going direct to the manufacturer. Turkish toweling for face cloths and towels, the finest of cheesecloth for handkerchiefs, blue and khaki denim for dresses and boys' suits, were piled high. Ten thousand dollars' worth of outing flannel was bought at one time, to insure both quantity and quality at a time when the market seemed doubtful. The pink and blue made garments for the children, the lavender and white striped went into nightshirts for the boys, while the gray was used for the women. Despite the demand for all materials, the sense of lack was never felt here. On the contrary there was such a prevailing sense of abundance that the feeling became almost universal that what anybody wanted could be found at the Christian Science headquarters. That the branch groups all over the country were making a similar demonstration of supply was evidenced by the quantity of garments turned in.

Hardly could equal space be the scene of more varied activities than the workroom on Beacon Street. Through the courtesy of the Hood Rubber Company, the larger garments were cut by machinery; but the parts were assembled here—a work requiring strength, speed and accuracy, and admitting of little friendly chat. The smaller garments were cut here by hand, and so carefully that, after skirts for girls were cut, the pieces left were made into children's nightgowns. The remnants from these went first into baby jackets, then hoods and finally bootees. Scraps too small to cover a baby's foot, were snipped for filling pillows—a work given over, in some cities, to the Sunday school children that they, too, might have a special part in forwarding comforts for our boys.

Around one large table sat a group of women sewing on labels; those around the table in the corner were filling comfort bags, and a pleasant time they were having too. Near them could be seen a group of women whose quizzical expressions showed at once that they were looking over the secondhand garments that had been sent in, endeavoring to make sure that each was in perfect repair, and placed where it would be sent to the country most needing it. Another table was covered with such attractive, harmonious colors, one wondered what it was going to contribute to the great cause, until closer inspection revealed that the pieces left from the convalescent robes were being converted into splendid blankets for the hospitals. That activity was too fascinating to be called work. One almost wished it were possible to go with each blanket to see what joy it carried to the boys needing the joy. What could those women be doing, with their arms going steadily round and round? Winding thread for the sewing kits. Another attractive table, well worth a call, was covered with slippers, in various stages of making; sometimes matching the convalescent robes; sometimes made of velours, bound and lined with contrasting colors to satisfy the love of the artistic.

In the midst of these more quiet activities, the big freight elevator announced the arrival of more cases.

"What has California sent this time?"

"This one is from Ohio; do open it at once."

"Have you seen the dresses that came yesterday from Minnesota?"

"No, but I was here Tuesday and saw the boys' outfits that Michigan sent in."

No longer was there any "here" and "there." Every group seemed just across the hall, and the various labels bearing the names of the cities they represented were simply greetings from the various members of the family. Love unifies, and cooperation is the manifestation of love. Healings of estrangement were rapidly being consummated through this united work for their far-away brothers and their sisters. That the blessing of this sense of unity fell not only upon the workers themselves, but was felt by the recipients of the garments, is shown by the following letters:

"Dear Friends: Upon examining my outfit, recently received from the Comforts Forwarding Committee, Christian Scientists, Boston, I was surprised to find that it contained articles furnished by workers in each of the following places: Boston, Massachusetts; Lima, Ohio; Minneapolis, Minnesota; St. Louis, Missouri; Denver, Colorado; Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"This seemed such a striking tribute to the universal nature of the work being done, as well as to the spirit of cooperation which was uniting the workers, that I felt compelled to send a note of thanks to each of those who had contributed, and to assure them that each one who receives the benefit of this work is being inspired in the duty of 'making his own gift a higher tribute to the Most High'" (Science and Health, page 541).

"A few days ago I received a Comfort Package from your Committee. It is useless for me to attempt to express in writing, or by any other means, my feelings upon opening this package and seeing its contents,—so many things useful to a soldier.

"I can tell you, though, that since the day it came, a new feeling in regard to going 'over the top' has come over me. The drills are easier, the hikes are easier, and I am much

more contented to take the little knocks and bumps that a fellow has to put up with in the course of training, and which are just the things that make a man discouraged unless someone shows some interest in his welfare and comfort.

"In a short time, no one knows how soon, I expect to be in France. The quicker the better, for I am very anxious; and as I go, and while I am there, I shall make use of the wonderful things which you good people have sent me. I can assure you that as I go 'over the top' my heart will be full of pride, and thankful to God, that I am of, and fighting for, a nation made up of such great and wonderfully good people.

"I believe that for you good people to realize to the full extent the greatness of the work you are doing, and the good that will come of it, both during and after this war, is impossible; but we soldiers do, and you can rest assured that we wont forget you.

"All the lads in my company having seen my package want me to say 'Hello' and 'Good luck' to you all.

"With the most sincere thanks."

There were two phases of the Comforts Forwarding work, quite distinct although indissolubly connected: the making and assembling of the garments, and their distribution. Several methods for giving out the garments were used. Quite a proportion of the knitted wear went directly from the various Committees to the individual soldiers and sailors applying for it. This personal contact was a happy part of the activity to the Committees and the recipients. The men already interested in Christian Science enjoyed their visits to the various Committee rooms; for the love expressed there helped them to feel that the whole body of Scientists stood closely behind them. A surprise, a wholly new experience, awaited, however, those who had never before come in immediate contact with Christian Science. Men had only to go to a Com-

forts Forwarding Room to find quickly the warm garments they so much needed. Neither creed, color nor nationality interfered, if they were wearing the uniform of the United States. This made no slight impression upon the men. To go from the freedom of one's own fireside, from the solicitous care of parents or wife, to the discipline and impersonal status of military life, was often the first battle to be won. As one boy expressed it, "One's feelings are the only thing that doesn't belong to Uncle Sam," and those feelings were consequently the more sensitive, the more easily hurt, the more easily gladdened. To go, therefore, where a man was asked only his name and place in the service, where he was greeted as a personal friend, where he could try on garments and make his own selection; where the word of encouragement, and even of confidence, was never lacking, does one believe that one of those boys will ever forget the experience?

It was a sailor boy who stood, one Saturday morning, reading the sign, "Comforts Forwarding Committee." At first it seemed to mean nothing to him; but surely, if slowly, its promise and appeal worked its way through the shell-shocked, gassed and horror-stricken mind, to the inner consciousness, where it met a response. He crossed the street, opened the door and walked in. The steady rays of unchanging love surrounded him. Little by little his petrified thought relaxed; little by little, stuttering, gasping, sighing, his story came forth; and when the effort to speak became too great, he finished the tale in writing. After more than a year of service in the army "over there," after going over the top and experiencing the full import of those words, what was left of the once stalwart lad had been sent back to his Texas home. But

no home awaited him. His widowed mother, having married again, had closed her heart and her house to the shattered hero. Turned from her door, he came to Uncle Sam, to offer such service as he could then render in the merchant marine.

Seated in a sheltered corner of the Comforts Forwarding Room, the homeless one was gently led to relax, and confidently rest in the mother love there shown him. Was there no church to help him?

"Oh, mercy, no, I never went to church; but my people are Protestants."

"How did you happen to come in here?"

"I don't know. I was across the street."

"I know; it was because we can help you."

"That is impossible. (A sigh.) I am so lonesome."

"If you stay in this city we will give you something to do."

"I wish I could do something for you."

The conversation closed with the gift of a Sentinel, a pamphlet and an invitation to come again Monday morning.

At nine o'clock there stood the boy, happy, whistling.

"I went to your church yesterday; ain't it fine!"

No mention of the church had hitherto been made to him, but he had found a notice of it in the Sentinel, and even the pouring rain could not keep him from its doors. His happy visits to the Comforts Forwarding Rooms continued, until his ship put out to sea; and it was a very different boy who said, "Good-bye; I shall come to see you on my return."

One day a little Italian woman appeared at a distributing headquarters. "My boy in France; he cold; he say boys all around him nice and warm; they tell

him this place; he say don't go any other place, come here and get him nice things, too."

In her eager, trembling hand was the loved son's letter. "Leave it with us that we may have his address, and we will see that he gets all that he wants."

Will that mother ever forget?

Two happy, but poorly clad, sailors walked confidently in. Could they have something to keep them warm? Of course they could; all they needed. Who had sent them there? The policeman at the corner of First and Second Streets; he said *that* was the place to go to.

A little later it was a dear young boy in khaki who entered. "I have a brother in France; I have just received a letter from him. He says he got his sweater here, and tells me to come here for mine, and to be *sure* to get a pamphlet. Perhaps you wouldn't give me these things if you knew. This isn't our religion; we're not saying much about it to the folks at home."

One cheerful summer morning the sun on the gilded sign, and the open door, brought in a crazed, nigh insane man.

"What comfort can you give me? Tell me that! My first son was killed, and now my second is dead, too. Already I've had six drinks of whiskey. What comfort can *you* give me?"

Instantly every woman present remembered that Life is eternal, as one of them said.

"How do you know it?" he inquired.

"Because God is Life."

"How do you know that?"

"We have proven it."

"Say it again."

"God is Life, and therefore Life is eternal."

A moment's stillness, a silent prayer, a few more words of comfort, and a quiet, thoughtful man went out upon the street with the truth for his companion.

The address of a Comforts Forwarding Committee was left by a War Relief Worker at the Custom House, together with the assurance that any needy one would there find help. The interested yeowoman put the card on file. Several months later a young enlisted seaman told her his story. He had been ordered for duty on one of the Canadian drifters, so-called—a fleet of patrol boats, dirty, cramped, repelling. He would be stationed in icy waters for six months. His aunt had expected to meet him with a package from the Red Cross, but had been unable to get a sweater or other articles, and he must sail without them. With joy the yeowoman recalled the card on file, and the boy appeared without delay at the distributing rooms. After a brief but heart-to-heart talk with the woman in charge, the boy went out, carrying with him not only a good supply of knitted wear, but also an illuminating pamphlet. The following day three of his comrades appeared, asking, first of all, for pamphlets, and specifying that they be different from the one given yesterday's boy. This group was quickly followed by another, until more than thirty of the officers and men, all of them fellows of the finer type but most unhappily placed, were supplied with all the physical and mental comforts the Committee had to offer. Expressions of true appreciation came later from the yeowoman and the boys; but the greatest gratitude was felt by the Scientists themselves; not only were they supplied with garments that it was a pleasure to give away, but of far greater import was the fact that the Comforter

had come, the Comforter that would lead these boys into the truth of whatever situation awaited them.

How true were the words of a big, uncouth enlisted lad, who, upon leaving the Comforts Forwarding Rooms, said: "There are some things that money cannot pay for; this is one of the times. I haven't much, and when I get in the army I shall probably have less, but I want to leave this," and he laid down two dollars as his offering.

Another boy, wishing to pay for a sweater, was told it was a gift.

"But," he said, "things cost."

"These are given."

"But they *cost* something."

"I cannot take anything for them."

"Well, if I leave something on the table you can't say anything;" and suddenly dropping a five dollar bill, he vanished through the door.

Garfield once said that whenever he saw a young boy he felt like taking off his hat to him, because he never knew what might be buttoned up under his coat. How many feel that way today. The boy has made for himself a new place in history, and perhaps, too, in the hearts of all mankind.

Another source of distribution was, as has already been mentioned, through other relief organizations, and for this opportunity of showing to those who hitherto had known nothing of us, or were, perhaps, antagonistic, what our religion really teaches us to do and to be, we have every reason to be grateful. How many prejudices were broken down, how many bitter feelings sweetened, how much of ignorance dissolved and replaced by intelligent, sympathetic understanding, we shall never know. Often and often came the

assurance that a wholly new concept of Christian Science was being formed.

It is the splendid work of the Minute Man Committee of the Sons of the American Revolution to stand at the point of readiness to render any needed help. No avoidable delays are incident to its charity. When the Halifax disaster occurred, the Minute Man Committee was electric in its response; when the soldiers at a Massachusetts training camp were ordered to march before being supplied by the Government with suitable shoes, it was the Minute Man Committee that provided them. The spirit of this organization was the spirit of the Christian Scientists, and therefore it was a pleasure to the Comforts Forwarding Committee to respond many times to calls for assistance from the brother organization. The following letter is self-explanatory:

"At the meeting of the Board of Managers of the Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held on Wednesday, May 1, 1918, the following vote was passed:

" 'Voted: that the thanks of the Society be and the same are hereby extended to the Christian Science Church of Boston, Massachusetts, for their very generous assistance in the contribution of money and goods to the work of the 1917 Minute Man Committee during the past year.'

"A formal review in detail of your assistance was made to the Board, and the expressions of appreciation were so hearty for your generosity that no formal vote can express the sentiment of the Board extended to you. I beg leave, therefore, to add the expression hereby extended in addition to the formal action of the Board.

"Very truly yours,"

(Signed by the Secretary.)

One case of goods, sent out from the rooms in Boston but representing many parts of the field, called forth the following remarks between the head of the organization receiving them, and an assistant:

"Comforts Forwarding Committee—what a symbolic name!"

"Who are they?"

"The Christian Scientists; and their garments are so well made, so carefully pressed and so exactly folded and packed, they are a comfort to the first person who handles them, and the comfort is forwarded."

"Well, I shall never again allow anyone in my presence to say a single word against them."

Before disbanding, this was practically the attitude of every organization handling the work. Generosity, bigness of conception, responsibility, reliability became indissolubly connected with the Scientists as a body, in the minds of other war workers. Nor was this all; opportunities for doing little kindnesses for other organizations; helping them fill some order too large for their unaided accomplishment; assisting in the establishment of some organization just struggling into existence, by a loan, a gift, or a friendly word of encouragement, became a recognized function. Yes, the Christian Scientists have given added proof that theirs is a religion of love in the little as well as the big things, and they have made friends, not in *propriæ personæ,* but as Scientists.

A third important method of distribution was in response to the calls that came direct from the camps, hospitals, embarkation ports, and even the craft about to sail. The Massachusetts War Relief Committee bulletin of July 18, 1918, contains this report:

"A supply sergeant of a company which was to leave for France in a few days came to one of our Camp Welfare Workers in much distress, because he had found that the Red Cross supplies, distributed through the Camp Quartermaster, had run short and he was in pressing need of a large number of sweaters and socks. Our Worker telephoned to the Comforts Forwarding Committee (Christian Scientists), Boston, and the next day a huge box containing the required fifty sweaters and seventy-five pairs of socks arrived, and was delivered, to the great amazement of the supply sergeant. Needless to say he was very grateful. All the men who have received them speak of the superior quality and softness of the 'Christian Science socks.' "

This was an activity in which many of the Committees participated, particularly in those cities near which such camps were located. Thus the Comforts Forwarding Rooms throughout the country formed a chain of supply houses, or "happiness factories," as one newspaper called them. The combined material history of what those Committees accomplished will never be written, but the spirit of the work, the quickened love, and the softened, sweetened thought when the note of appreciation came from the recipients, have made their ineffaceable imprint upon the consciousness of every worker. If each member of a Committee has thus profited by the experience, who can estimate its value to the entire Christian Science organization in the community, and therefore to the Christian Science cause as a whole?

One day sixty-five boys were fitted out by a local Committee. We quote from the report:

"One of the boys, whose father is a well-known ex-minister and whose mother is a prominent club woman here, made this statement to his parents: 'Father, you and mother could buy

me all that I need; but there is not money enough in this city to buy the love that was expressed in those rooms today.' Both the father and the mother had previously been opposed to Christian Science, yet the father called upon the Committee the following Monday morning to give us this message, and his acknowledgment of the work done here shows that much more is being accomplished than merely the giving out of knitted garments."

It was the pleasure of one Committee to provide a neighboring hospital with well-filled comfort bags, made of red, white and blue sateen. At the Thanksgiving dinner they formed the principal table decoration, one being placed at each plate.

It was in another hospital, supplied with comfort bags, that a boy in the tubercular ward said, "We sure need a little brightness in here, and these bags are so bright and pretty."

Knitted garments, bags, etc., for two hundred men were placed in the care of the chaplain on a ship, to be distributed by him on Christmas day, when the men would be well at sea.

From a southern camp came the following letter:

"Mesdames: I have been so very busy in these last two weeks that until this time I haven't had an opportunity to thank you for that very wonderful kit you sent me. You cannot know what that sweater has meant and will mean during the winter months here. The nights, even at this time of year, have been very cold. And I am using every other thing you sent me—in fact the first button I've had on my clothes, once they are off, can be accredited to the influence of that little sewing kit.

"I have a younger brother who hasn't the nerve to ask for anything in this world except his breakfast, and he's usually hungry—but he's been wondering if you would consider send-

ing him something in the line of what you sent me—especially those warm socks and a sweater. He's a private and does much guard work, so that the nights catch him colder than me. I'll thank you and he will too.

"Yours is a wonderful work, and the boys all love you for it. I'm coming over to thank you in person when this thing is finished."

From the captain of a ship came this cheering report:

"I wish to express my appreciation of the gift of a lovely comforter which was left on board by the Camp Welfare Worker.

"The Comforts Forwarding Committee have supplied the officers and men of the '*Bridge*' repeatedly with articles of this design, in addition to helmets, sweaters, knitted socks, and other garments that have added greatly to our comfort and efficiency. The kind thoughts that have come with these gifts have been of particular value to us and we have felt from the first that our ship is a good deal of a Science ship."

From a lieutenant on another ship:

"I wish also to assure you of the appreciation on the part of all hands of the work which the Christian Science Comforts Committee has been doing. At the instance of a brother officer, the officers and crew of this ship have been the recipients of several hundred sweaters, helmets, wristlets, socks, etc., which were sorely needed, how much so none who have not done winter duty in the fleet, can have the slightest conception. Also I am more than persuaded that the Christian Science pamphlets accompanying the various articles have sown the seed of truth much more widely and deeply than might at first be supposed."

From the *Roanoke* comes this report:

"Dear Friends: Now that the *Roanoke* is about to start on its mission, I wish to express my gratitude and the appre-

ciation of the officers and crew for the many good things which you and the other Committees have done for the happiness and comfort of our ship. We gave out the knitted goods to the crew on Saturday, and the boys said that they have never had such fine sweaters and socks as those furnished through your Committees. In my position as one of the censors, I have read with a great deal of interest and pleasure the kind expressions toward Christian Science and Christian Scientists which they have made in writing home to their relatives and friends."

It is to a southern camp that we are indebted for the following letter:

"No mention of the activities would be complete without tribute to the dear ladies who have made the boys so many knitted goods and comforts. Oh, if they could only see the happiness these things brought to the boys, their many hours of work would surely seem to be repaid. How often have I wished that some of you could hear the gratitude the boys have expressed for these things. How they were touched by the quality of the things. Just like Mother would have wanted to give them. And how gently they would handle the things. It seemed to bring them that touch of mother love that they craved. Oh, but I am glad that those articles were made without thought of cost and with but one thought and that was *love*. And the boys understood, and the message the comforts carried in their gentleness woke many a boy to a desire for higher and finer things than he knew before, and led him to learn the religion of *love*. We never can guess the good these comforts have done, for they were sent out with a sustaining thought that led and comforted."

From a Camp Worker:

"We received 313 sweaters, 536 pairs of wristers, 461 helmets, 500 pairs of socks, and 36 scarfs. . . . The issue of these comforts broke down all prejudice against Christian Science and has opened the way for our Committee. In fact,

just to hear the name Christian Science brings words of gratitude from every man and opens all doors to us."

The following letter from a hospital worker might have been addressed to the field in general:

"The Comforts Forwarding Committee has already supplied us with over two hundred of its sweater vests, and is giving us more each week. These vests have been received with eagerness and appreciation by the men, who have said repeatedly: 'This is the best gift we could have. Whoever saw anything so fine.' A frequent exclamation is, 'Do tell the ladies who make them that we sure are grateful.'

"The labels on the garments, telling in what city they were made, have served to bring much brightness. Shouts such as: 'A lady in Houston, Texas, made mine for me'; 'A lady in Los Angeles made mine'; 'Mine came from a lady in Chicago,' and so on, filled the rooms one day as we were distributing these garments.

"More than two hundred and twenty-five men, twenty-seven medical officers, including a colonel and a major, seven women nurses and five reconstruction workers are now wearing these garments.

"Since serving as a War Relief Worker, I have appreciated more deeply than before, the loving ministry that is being accomplished by the Forwarding Committee. Its work has not been confined merely to caring for human needs, for large numbers of men who have received the 'comforts' have earnestly inquired about the spiritual teaching of Christian Science, often saying, 'I want to know more about God.' To such our literature has been given, and later these boys have asked for the textbook and for treatment. With deep thankfulness I have observed that the sweater vests, blanket wrappers, and afghans which have been given to me to distribute have brought much more than human warmth to our noble lads, for they have had part in leading the thoughts of these boys upward to the love of God, there to feel the healing touch of Truth."

A UNIQUE COMMITTEE

In addition to the letters from officers and War Relief Workers, many were received from individuals, whose gratitude compelled expression. The following excerpt bore four signatures.

"We, the undersigned, do hereby express to you our grateful and heartfelt appreciation of the gracious favors and gifts so recently bestowed on and sent to us. And when our comfort is enhanced by the wearing of the several articles, we shall think much and many times of the loving and useful service being rendered our Cause and the boys upholding that Cause, by the Christian Scientists of the United States of America; for such unselfish and sincere efforts can only tend to bring to us the more speedily a just and lasting peace achieved by a decisive victory."

"Dear Friends: The two outfits which you sent to my brother and me arrived Saturday. Words are inadequate when it comes to expressing our gratitude for your goodness and kindness. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you.

"My brother is a very quiet boy and does not say much, so I am taking this opportunity to speak for both of us. Even if he does not say much, he appreciates the thoughtfulness and graciousness of good friends very keenly.

"This verbal response is a feeble acknowledgment of your gift, but to attest my feeling, I promise you that I shall make a constant and earnest endeavor to know the truth, and do the will of God, and help others to do likewise. Accept our thanks, our love and our best wishes."

"Your package of comforts has arrived, and filled a much needed want. If the various people who knitted these things could only see for themselves the amount of comfort I derive from their use, and could hear the words of appreciation that we say among ourselves, I feel quite sure they would say that their labor had not been in vain.

"If one of the boys who is a Scientist, had not told me of the work you are doing, I would not be able to extend to you my thanks; and if you are doing for others as for me, quietly and efficiently, I feel I owe you a tribute beyond the expression of thanks.

"I hope at some future day to procure a Science and Health. If this is your religion I want to know more about it."

"Just a word of appreciation for the soft, wonderful, woolen knitted goods, I received some time ago. A soldier with such an equipment as you sent me is surely a happy man.

"The socks are not of the cumbersome, thick style; the sweater vest so neat and comfortable in comparison with others seen; the skullcap so comfortable at night; and wristlets and stormhood of the softest, nicest work I have ever seen.

"It is truly a pleasure to wear such equipment. It is just in line with everything else good that comes through Christian Science."

That the work of the Comforts Forwarding Committee was doing much toward meeting the needs of the boys in this country; that it was touching their hearts and winning their appreciation; nay, more, that it was bringing to them big evidences of a divine, efficacious Love, was apparent. The silent influx of love expressed told more than words could say.

The individual responses to silent influence would have been a sufficiently gratifying recompense to the workers, but justice demanded in addition a more official recognition.

The following letter from one of the Christian Science War Relief Workers stationed near a camp tells an important story—a story typical of what took place in many government posts.

"As an expression of our gratitude for the help received

from the Comforts Forwarding Committee (Christian Scientists) of Boston, we are sending the following experience as one of the many proofs we have had that your work was appreciated.

"When the camp was established here, our committee, together with other welfare organizations, commenced our work amongst the boys, but found very few who were interested at all in what we were trying to do for them. In fact, when the epidemic broke out here, we were told by the Post Commander that no welfare workers would be allowed in camp until the epidemic was over. These orders were very emphatic.

"Twelve days later a shipment of knitted garments, consisting of a sweater, helmet, pair of wristers and two pairs of socks for every man in the camp was received from your Committee. These garments were delivered to the Company Commander, and at noon of that day we were informed over the telephone that the Post Commander wished us to come out to the camp immediately, as he had never seen such a splendid array of knitted goods, and that while the men were all lined up in front of the Company office to receive the goods, he felt that we should see the goods for ourselves and be present at the distribution. Upon arrival at the camp we were met by the Post Commander and Company Commander and congratulated upon these goods.

"The men were then given the outfits and appreciated them very much, as the winter uniforms and overcoats had not been issued, and the nights were very cold.

"Since that time, even during the epidemic, we have been allowed to go anywhere in the camp and help many of the boys, who now knew that we were there to help them and not to preach to them. For months after this, and even yet, the boys will tell us how much Christian Science has done for them, and how they feel that these knitted garments saved many of them. To the men in the service here Christian Science has come to stand for that which helps and brings joy and comfort."

In a newspaper published in a western city appeared one day the following article:

"They moved in very quietly. They didn't celebrate by tooting horns or throwing confetti. In fact they didn't say a word about it, but if you are doing any window shopping you will find them at 121 North First Street. The window display of well-made little garments holds the interest, and the neat sign on the unobtrusive gray cardboard is self-explanatory, 'Comforts Forwarding Committee (Christian Scientists).' You go in because you can't stay out. That expression, 'Comforts Forwarding,' is one of the most appealing things in a day's hunt for a story. Inside there are space and light and simplicity. A few feathery wild grasses for desk decoration, a flag on the wall, work everywhere, and bright-faced women, one of whom says with a smile, 'It is joyful work.' Somehow you seem to have sensed that 'comforts forwarding' must be joyful work—and now you know it. It is a labor of love."

At the entrance to the workroom of the Comforts Forwarding Committee in one of the large cities, there were forty boxes, filled with cut garments to be made, each box bearing the name of the captain of a unit, and this reminder:

"As Christian Scientists, our garments should be garments of praise made in the spirit of holiness, so let perfection, not numbers, be our object."

A thing is a thought made manifest; the value of an article is exactly the value of the thought behind it. Just so far as individual members of the Comforts Forwarding Committee lived and worked in the healing consciousness, so far every garment made carried with it the healing truth—the truth that destroys erroneous concepts of every name and nature, and sets the human understanding free.

It is not strange then, but supremely natural, that

our friends in the medical profession began to see a great light. To the wonderful results in this direction, accomplished by the War Relief and Camp Welfare Committees, the labors of the women made no small addition. It was a medical officer who asked for a sweater vest to send to his son in another camp, and in return asked if he could not in some way help the Welfare Worker. Not long after, this same doctor requested that The Christian Science Monitor be placed on his desk daily. It was another member of the medical profession in the same camp who said, "You people do make the loveliest things," and a third, to whom a sweater vest had been given, who, as he was leaving the post to return to his duties as Health Commissioner in one of our large cities, said he would always have a kind feeling for Christian Science and Christian Scientists, and that as Health Officer he knew he could always understand them better. From another physician came the happy statement that he never heard any criticism of Christian Science any more in the staff meetings; that, in fact, many kind remarks were made, and he was right then studying Mrs. Eddy's works.

It may be of interest to the field to know that the most advanced facilities were available for the Comforts Forwarding work. Not only did electric irons, electric sewing machines and knitting machines help to quicken the work, but when a detachment of men ordered overseas were found to be in need of "comforts" fifteen complete outfits were hurried to them by aeroplane. Nor was it a mere coincidence that the pilot of the plane was a devout Christian Scientist.

As long as the boys were "over here," however much one deprecated the training camp experiences, there

was still the consciousness that as compared with foreign service, they were still at home. The arms of the Mother-land were around them. The usual methods of communication were available; personal gifts, and even personal visits, possible. It was when they left for "over there" that the father and the mother awaited eagerly the first letter announcing their arrival; and how happily they noted that either before sailing or immediately on landing, their depleted outfits had been replenished by the Comforts Forwarding Committee. Sometimes gratitude to this Committee compelled a letter from the parents themselves. Of the many received from the boys, the following will serve as a sample:

"Somewhere in France.
"August 1, 1918.

"Dear Friends:

"This is the first opportunity I have had to thank you for the kind gifts I received from your Committee last February. The weather here is rather chilly at night, and as most of my work is done under cover of darkness, I cannot help appreciating the value of warm clothing.

"One of the ladies of your society was kind enough to call my attention to the 91st Psalm, and although I've had lots of spare time in which to investigate the benefits which she claimed were to be derived from reading it, I have not done so until today, much to my regret. There was in it a message of calm confidence and trust in a Being whom I had known but little in my childhood, and in whose existence I have not had the slightest faith as I grew older. But war is a great school, and I am considerably wiser today.

"I derived special comfort from the fifth and seventh verses, and they will no doubt be my guiding stars when I get at close quarters with old Fritz. So I wish to thank that kind lady most cordially for a good tip.

"I am with the 306th Machine Gun Battalion, Company B, and I am going to make it a point to visit your Committee in person as soon as I get back home, and thank the ladies for their ceaseless efforts in behalf of the young men who are just starting on their military careers.

"Trusting that this visit may be in the very near future, I am,

"Respectfully yours."

In the matter of individual distribution on the other side, our Canadian sisters naturally led the way, their work having commenced with the beginning of the war. Although their activities were quite distinct from those of the Comforts Forwarding Committee of the United States, the following account from Toronto shows the same animating spirit, proving again that Truth is one and indivisible, and unified in the qualities expressing it. It is a pleasure to incorporate here this incomplete story of what was accomplished by some of our neighbor Scientists:

"Our activity grew from an Overseas Box Committee organized by members of First and Third Churches of Christ, Scientist, Toronto, in the early part of the war, and which eventually became a very prominent activity of the Comforts Forwarding Committee, consisting of sending individual boxes of food and comforts to approximately one hundred soldiers a month. In this list were many American residents who had enlisted in the Canadian army. We sent our last shipment in October, 1918, to our full list of boys, for Christmas, numbering between three and four hundred. In acknowledgment of this work we continually received letters of gratitude, from boys not only in England and France, but far-away Russia; also from a group of five Belgian soldiers whose desperate need became known to a member of our Committee.

"A company of two hundred men for the Siberian Expeditionary Force were supplied, each with a sleeveless jacket

and two pairs of socks, on ten days' notice, just before embarking. Another instance of our being able to answer a hurried call for comforts, was a request from the Navy League for seven sleeveless jackets or sweaters and helmets, for the officers on a British Merchant Marine just arrived at Halifax, and who were recovering from illness. This request came from the Navy League only after trying to secure these comforts from every other Committee supplying comforts for the soldiers. They were then told to try the Christian Scientists, as they seemed to be the only organization prepared to fill such a need after the armistice was signed. The League showed its appreciation of our quick response by dropping a donation in our contribution box. The following day they asked for supplies for two more sick officers, of these 'splendid vests and helmets,' and sent another contribution with the messenger who came for them.

"Our branches in Kitchener, London, Hamilton, Windsor and Oshawa helped us in such a splendid way, that our total output of garments, new and secondhand, amounted to approximately eight thousand five hundred, exclusive of our shipments of overseas boxes."

Just as individual knitting and sewing on this side of the water gave way to the united activity of a great organization like the Comforts Forwarding Committee, so the nature and volume of the work demanded a strong, efficient, and in every sense cooperative organization on the other side. This was supplied by the *Comité Français de la Christian Science pour les Secours de Guerre.* The arrangement was ideal. Each Committee was in a measure a *raison d'être* for the other; each the other's incentive. Through the intervention of the *Comité Français* the French Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Blockade and Liberated Regions, in Paris, granted the necessary license for the landing of thirty tons monthly of our material;

and in reply to a circular letter sent out by our French Committee to Prefects, Senators, Deputies, Mayors, etc., in the invaded regions, asking for definite information in regard to the needs of the people, had come scores of appealing and appreciative replies.

Shipping space must be found. The matter was taken up with the French High Commission in New York, but without immediate results. The French Embassy was approached, but while there was an evident desire to help, there seemed to be no way of overstepping the Commission which had authority over all transportation. During the discussion with the Embassy, there was present the captain of a fleet of twelve French mine-sweepers, who offered space on his boats provided the Ambassador approved of it. Approval was given, and as the boats were to sail from Boston, they were especially convenient for loading. Sailing not as a squadron, but at different times, two were scheduled to leave in December. On them were loaded one hundred fifty of the five hundred cases of clothing then ready. They put out to sea, proved unseaworthy, and in two or three days returned to port, to await an uncertain future. It was then that the French High Commission took up the matter, and granted space on some merchant vessels under French control. The shipments were as follows:

129 cases, February, 1919, via Steamer Hassel.
125 cases, April, 1919, via West Elcasco.
240 cases, May, 1919, via Caxambu.
65 cases, July, 1919, via West Elcasco.

Before the garments were packed in the cases at Boston, they were firmly tied in bundles of two, five or ten, each bundle bearing a label stating the nature,

number and size of the garments. The same care, orderliness and system which characterized the packing, were exercised in the distribution of the clothing among the refugees. The cases were landed at La Pallice, Le Havre or Bordeaux, and generally forwarded, by railroad or canal, to Paris. There they were received by the Christian Science War Relief Committee, together with a descriptive list of the contents of each case. From Paris they were sent to the various Prefects, Deputies, Mayors, etc., for distribution. To avoid the confusion, loss and misfits consequent upon the opening of cases out of doors, none were forwarded from Paris until official guarantee of a suitable housing place had been received.

Several consignments were made to Monsieur Ringuier, Mayor of St. Quentin and Deputy of the Aisne. His circumscription comprised many villages, and the inhabitants were destitute of everything. By special arrangement the cases were sent directly from Le Havre to St. Quentin, where a large depot was prepared for their reception. Madame Ringuier herself, with a splendid corps of assistants, mostly women, prepared the garments for distribution. Numbered cards were issued, requiring each family to state of whom it was comprised, and what help had already been received from other sources. The following poster announcing a distribution in St. Quentin, was profusely and conspicuously placed.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF POSTER

FREE DISTRIBUTION

OF

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

"Under the auspices of Madame Ringuier, 5, rue Mariolle.

A UNIQUE COMMITTEE

"The Committee Lyon-Saint-Quentin has received in three days, May 26, 27, 28, 2,242 applications from families, representing about 10,000 persons. The 2,242 numbered tickets were remitted to Mme. Ringuier, Thursday, May 29, at the time she was finishing the inventory of the cases destined to the town of St. Quentin, the total of which amounted to 13,233 articles. The distribution will take place according to series of 200 from the 16th to the 29th of June.

"There are many garments for girls, exactly 6,942 articles, which are classified according to ages: 1,774 dresses, 2,305 underdresses, 489 aprons, 1,256 drawers, 749 chemises, etc. This is the most important lot and it comprises many pretty things.

"On the other hand there are few garments for men. Out of the 3,791 articles, there are 3,108 pairs of socks, 524 sweaters, etc.

"For the women we have a lot of 1,075 articles: 105 matinees, 147 blankets and 463 pretty winter dressing gowns.

"For the boys there are 1,425 various articles.

"These figures show that we are obliged to give more to the cards where there are girls, thus reducing the share of the papas and mammas in order to make up the packages for the families where there are no girls.

"We wish to state that the packages are made up according to the size of the family and following category:

"1st, Persons who have never received anything.

"2d, Those who have already received, and

"3d, Those who have already received from several charities.

"This goes to explain that the packages will not be as important for the families composed of many people.

"We have in reserve 100 magnificent layettes which will be distributed as births occur at the Maternity Ward of the Hotel Dieu.

"There are few shoes to distribute for we have sent the

galoches with wooden soles to some of the villages instead of garments.

"All the pretty things, which are absolutely new, we owe to the generosity of the Christian Science ladies, whom Mme. Ringuier has thanked in the name of the population.

"Persons should keep their numbered tickets, which will serve for the drawing of the 15 sewing machines.

"The making of the packages is progressing satisfactorily and we can begin the distribution Monday, June 16, and continue every day from 4 to 6.30 p.m. until the 2,242 packages are exhausted.

"To avoid all pushing, we will distribute a series of 200 packages a day. As the prepared packages are piled up one above the other, we are obliged to follow in order. The first 75 numbers of the series must be presented between 4 and 5 p.m.; the following 75, between 5 and 6, and the last 50 between 6 and 6.30 p.m.

"In this way no time will be lost.

"NO PUSHING (Stand in line, please).

"ORDER OF THE DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO SERIES OF 200.

"EVERY DAY FROM 4 TO 6.30 P.M.

"Monday	June 16	Series	1 to 200
"Tuesday	June 17	Series	201 to 400
"Wednesday	June 18	Series	401 to 600
"Thursday	June 19	Series	601 to 800
"Friday	June 20	Series	801 to 1000
"Saturday	June 21	Series	1001 to 1200
"Monday	June 23	Series	1201 to 1400
"Tuesday	June 24	Series	1401 to 1600
"Wednesday	June 25	Series	1601 to 1800
"Thursday	June 26	Series	1801 to 2000
"Friday	June 27	Series	2001 to 2242

"The drawing of the 15 sewing machines will take place Sunday, June 29, at 10 o'clock, under the peristyle of the

theater. Only the members of the commissions will have access to the steps.

"The commission will be composed of Messrs. Ringuier, Tricotteaux and Charles Deschamps, Counsellors of the Arrondissements, and the persons who happen to have the cards bearing numbers 200, 400, 600, 800, 1000, 1200, 1400, 1600, 1800, 2000, 2200 are requested to join them as witnesses.

"The 15 winning numbers will be immediately posted up."

This incident in St. Quentin, at which members of the Christian Science War Relief Committee were present, was typical of the dignified method of distribution of all the refugee garments of the Comforts Forwarding Committee; and it is interesting to note that even the poster announced that it was to be a distribution of *Christian Science,* although it is hardly to be supposed that the authors thereof realized the truth of the statement. It is evident that the loving, comforting thoughts of this Committee accompanied the garments.

It was the desire of the War Relief Committee to send the Comforts Forwarding articles where they were most needed. One such place was Nantes, the fifth largest city in France. Already burdened with its own poor, the distress and suffering were greatly increased by the large number of refugees allotted to it because of its size. In addition to many cases of clothing which were sent here and apportioned to the families where instant relief was needed, ten cases of uncut flannel were given to the Society for the Aid of Widows and Orphans. Headquarters were opened, and the women who could work came there and themselves made garments from the flannel—a bit of constructive work with value.

Another industry in which the material of the Com-

forts Forwarding Committee played its part, was that established by the Marquise de Lagrange for the women of Brittany. Desiring to interest the women in knitting, she had opened a little place, but was financially unable properly to equip it. With help given by the Christian Science War Relief Committee, it was possible to hire larger quarters and install machinery. Twelve cases of Comforts Forwarding yarn, real yarn, wool, such as could not then be bought in France, were donated, and a genuine industry started. The women were paid for their labor, and the output sent to Paris to be sold. This *tricotage,* open to all classes, has proved a special blessing to the many women whose social position and circumstances before the war, made it most difficult for them to adjust themselves to the only other means of livelihood open to them. The Marquise herself paved the way by personally running a machine. This industry has come to stay, and although one can hardly forecast its future, as compared with the many little factories composed of a few hand machines installed under a canvas covering, in the midst of ruins where German prisoners have shoveled away the débris, it promises much; and its comforts seem destined to be forwarded indefinitely.

This account of overseas distribution is but a salesman's sample. Over one hundred and forty thousand new garments were sent through the Boston headquarters to the Committee in France, and placed with phenomenal care. The letters of acknowledgment which have been received from the beneficiaries are many and sincere. To read them is to obtain the truest definition of war. Though they tell of destruction, suffering and gaunt want, they are so appreciative, so

redolent with gratitude, that the tear of grief is almost dissolved in that of joy. For the present we are compelled to let the few lines that follow speak for all:

From the Mayor of Ribemont, District of Saint-Quentin:

"In behalf of the necessitous population of Ribemont, the task of telling you how much the different articles, which you were kind enough to send to our commune, are appreciated, is an agreeable one.

"How many of these articles fill urgent needs, and how concerned are our unhappy people, having lost everything through the invasion of the enemy. Many of them have found absolutely nothing of what they possessed before the war, furniture, linen, clothes, kitchen utensils—everything has disappeared. Thus you see with what eager eyes each looks on what he can obtain through your generosity.

"Rest assured that the name of Christian Science will come to the lips of each one, as sentiments of kindness, mutual aid and solidarity are evoked. . . ."

From the Countess de Mareuil:

"I found your Committee's address in the parcels given me for the devastated village of Boullancourt, and I thank you with all my heart for your kindness.

"We had there an estate and a castle which are entirely destroyed, so that we cannot further help the 150 people of the little village. A dozen families have already come back, and during this cold weather are living in the ruins of our cellars, preferring to suffer anything rather than lose the chance to sow wheat in two months. Their love for the soil will save this little bit of France, and our own land for my three children. You can infer how much your generosity was needed. They will bless your name forever.

"It is awful for the race to suffer after having shed almost the last drop of blood, and your warm clothes will save more than one of these little fellows. . . .

"The boches stole our furniture (it was old and fine) before the place was destroyed; they cut our trees, also, so that we cannot help our poor peasants. . . . But all of us have suffered for France with a willing heart, and we thank God for the kind friends who have done so much for us. . . ."

The holocaust is over. The treaty of peace has been signed. The Comforts Forwarding Committee was a tender arm spontaneously held out to help a needy world. Its immediate purpose has been served and the organization dissolved. What did it accomplish? Measured by figures as follows:

Total number of garments distributed by the Comforts Forwarding Committee from December 1, 1917, to May 1, 1919	1,223,793
NOTE.—Of this quantity, 904,101 garments were distributed by the Boston Committee, while the remaining 319,692 articles were distributed by the local Committees direct.	
Included in the articles distributed by the Boston Committee were the following:	
Knitted goods and other comforts given to men in service	191,848
Double-faced eider down vests	3,575
Convalescent robes	4,009
New shoes given to Italian War Relief Committee	1,151
500 cases new garments shipped to Le Comité Français de la Christian Science pour les Secours de Guerre	140,095
Old and new garments distributed by the Boston Committee through local Relief organizations (note list below)	563,423
Cases uncut outing flannel, including cut but unmade garments and other bulk material . .	58
Cases bulk yarn	12

NOTE.—Local Relief organizations referred to above:
Sons of American Revolution (Minute Men Committee).
British War Relief.
American Fund for French Wounded.
Italian War Relief Committee.
Belgian War Relief Commission.
Polish War Relief Committee.
Serbian War Relief Committee.
Society for Protection of Children of the Frontier.
Quartermasters' Department, Washington (for Siberia).
Wellesley College Unit.
Smith College Unit.

Having read these figures, what do they tell us? Very little, since algebra cannot compute or alchemy resolve them into the true substance of which they are the human expression. The mission of Christian Science is to heal and redeem and what was accomplished through this new and united labor "knoweth no man." It blessed not only those who have received but also those who have given, and each in proportion, not to the number of garments turned out, but to the clarity of the healing thought that lay behind them. This unique organization has ceased its outward activity and disbanded, but human ingenuity is powerless to nullify its invisible inspiration. That will continue to move forward through undivided space and uncounted time, carrying with it the comfort of the Christ-love and giving "the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

VIII

TIMELY RECOGNITION

In the New York *World* for February 5, 1918, there appeared the following editorial:

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE IN THE NAVY

"The appointment by Secretary Daniels of a Christian Scientist as navy chaplain denotes a significant change in the public attitude toward the faith founded by Mrs. Eddy.

"Could such a selection of a spiritual adviser have been conceived of in Dewey's navy? Christian Science then and long after was anathema to the regular religious denominations of the country. Legislation was invoked to restrain it, medical societies prosecuted its practitioners and it was made to bear the brunt of a powerful opposition everywhere. Now the Government gives it full recognition and accords its readers an equal status with the ministers of other creeds. Besides the navy chaplain, there are two Christian Science chaplains in the army.

"So have the old antagonisms subsided and the earlier intolerance given way under the spirit of religious freedom. History has repeated itself once more and the new kirk has fought its way to a place alongside of the old kirk. It has been an interesting process, and the outcome is notable as an illustration of the liberalizing tendencies of modern opinion, whether religious or political."

Such was the tolerant and friendly attitude with which the public as a whole accepted the appointment of Christian Science chaplains in the army and navy.

TIMELY RECOGNITION

When on April 6, 1917, the United States made the memorable decision which allied her with the other liberty-loving nations of the world, struggling for the preservation of freedom, Christian Scientists were not slow to respond to the call to arms. It was natural that they should wish to be represented in the Chaplain Corps and efforts were at once made towards securing official recognition of Christian Science chaplains, who should minister to the spiritual needs of men of their own faith.

The appointment of Christian Scientists to this position was first made possible by an amendment to the Revised Statutes of the United States authorizing the President to commission twenty chaplains-at-large to represent those denominations not already included in the existing law. Prior to this chaplains were drawn from the membership of those churches united as The Federated Churches of Christ of America, and the Roman Catholic Church, and all applicants were required to be ordained clergymen. Not included in this list were several denominations which had many members in the service, and to meet their demands the Chaplain-at-large bill was introduced and passed by Congress and approved by the President on October 26, 1917. The Committee of the House having this bill in charge recommended that these chaplains be given a roving commission not attaching them to any one regiment directly. The concluding paragraph of the order as passed by Congress was as follows:

"Division commanders may apply to the Adjutant General of the Army for the services of chaplains-at-large of the Jewish, Christian Science, Eastern Catholic, Mormon, and Salvation Army denominations if they deem that there are

sufficient numbers of the adherents of such faiths in their divisions to render chaplains-at-large necessary."

This made it possible for the members of these denominations to have the services of a chaplain of their own faith and to have services conducted according to the tenets of their church.

A person seeking a commission in the army as a chaplain must make application to the Adjutant General in Washington. He must be a citizen of the United States over 21 and under 45 years of age; must be a graduate of a recognized college or university or able to pass an examination in certain subjects named by the Adjutant General; he must be in good physical health and is obliged to pass a thorough physical examination before an army medical officer, and must be endorsed and recommended by the governing board of the denomination of which he is a member. The examining board reports its findings to the Adjutant General with recommendations, and if these are favorable to the applicant he is in due time given a commission with the rank of a first lieutenant. He wears the uniform of an officer with the proper insignia as stipulated by the Uniform Regulations. All chaplains with the exception of those of the Jewish faith wear a small Latin cross of silver or white metal as the insignia of their office. The Jewish chaplain wears a small six-pointed star.

The first appointment of chaplains under the Chaplain-at-large act gave the Christian Scientists two, who were endorsed to the Secretary of War by the Christian Science Board of Directors. This was a timely and official recognition by the United States Government of the Christian Science movement. Mr.

Edward W. Dickey of Los Angeles, California, and Mr. Martin F. Jackson of New York City were the first appointees, receiving their commissions in November, 1917. On June 1, 1918, a third army chaplain was announced, Mr. Walter S. Cross of Baltimore, Maryland. In August of the same year three additional appointments were made as follows: Mr. Gustavus S. Paine of Reno, Nevada, and Mr. Arthur C. Whitney and Mr. George R. Bonner, both of Boston, Massachusetts. When a Chaplains' Training School was opened in October, 1918, at Camp Taylor, Kentucky, four Christian Scientists entered as candidates. Mr. William M. Bartlett of Concord, Massachusetts, and Mr. Harry K. Filler of Youngstown, Ohio, were graduated and received their commissions in November, 1918. Mr. Herbert W. Beck of Oakland, California, was graduated about two weeks later and assigned to duty and Mr. Don C. Gilman of San Francisco, California, received a commission in the Reserve Officers' Corps and at once returned to civil life.

Certain definite duties are prescribed for chaplains, probably chief of which is the maintenance of the morale of the men under their care. They are, of course, required to hold religious services whenever circumstances permit, being obliged only to hold those of the denomination to which they belong. In the case of Christian Science chaplains, however, their willingness to conduct undenominational services in addition to their own created a very favorable impression. Chaplains may hold classes for religious instruction, and must supervise the education of those who are deficient in the ordinary branches of learning. They are required to visit and comfort the sick and when

their men are called into action the chaplain's place is with the wounded and in the dressing stations. The breadth of these regulations gave our chaplains wide latitude and enabled them to be of great service to their men.

The Christian Science chaplains who were assigned to camps in this country held regular services in Y. M. C. A. huts. Of the first service in Camp Lee, Virginia, Chaplain Dickey wrote:

"You will be interested to know that we held the first Christian Science service at Camp Lee last Sunday at 9 in the morning, more than two hundred officers and men being present. The attention paid to the reading by the entire congregation was remarkable. A Y. M. C. A. hut is never a very quiet place for a religious service, but on this occasion there was not the slightest disturbance. Many of those present were attending their first Christian Science service and one man asked for a copy of the textbook, another pronouncing it the best church service he had ever attended. The singing was splendid. Three Y. M. C. A. Secretaries remained in the room throughout the meeting and followed the reading with a Quarterly. I was assisted in the service by a private soldier, and am sure it brought a healing message."

All Christian Scientists in camp, no matter to what unit attached, Infantry, Artillery or Engineers, were given leave to attend these services. The chaplains made the round of the camp each week, spending an appointed time with each battalion when the men could meet with them and procure literature and whatever help was necessary. They were given the freedom of quarantined areas and base hospitals, where Christian Science Monitors were distributed freely. Occasionally talks on Christian Science were given to the officers of the camp upon their own re-

quest; and official government notice of services published in the "daily communique" were read at "formation" before every man in camp. At Wednesday evening meetings often a discussion of means of protection against all possible enemy attack ensued, and men were thereby mentally armored for the strife before them.

Whether in this country or overseas, among other duties the Christian Science chaplains gave lectures on current events, ran educational classes, gave magic lantern exhibitions, organized baseball teams, refereed sporting contests, acted as interlocutors in minstrel shows, arranged dances for enlisted men, sang in concerts, erected Christmas trees, placed The Christian Science Monitor in Officers' Clubs and in Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. Rest Rooms, ran canteens, cooked for boys away from their mess on special detail, assisted as stretcher bearers, helped surgeons in first aid stations, carried messages back to Division Headquarters, dug graves, laid boys away, conducted their burial services, took care of their valuables, wrote to the bereaved parents, joked with the boys who wanted to laugh and wept with those who would cry. Necessity really made the chaplain the mother of the army.

The Christian Science Monitor became the chaplain's first aid in action. It went over the top tucked away in many a boy's blouse. It was carried up in aeroplanes and down in submarines. It found a place in tanks and rode securely in caissons. It was first read as a spiritual comforter and then used as a material one, being spread between the blankets to keep its possessor warm. Boys who had fallen were wrapped in a blanket and given a Christian Science Monitor to read while a canned heat kit and a soup cube were

being brought into action. Boys who went over the top carried no pack or blanket but upon gaining their objective, many a boy made a bed of a Christian Science Monitor to sleep on until supplies and relief could be brought up. During bombardment, if in the daytime, to take a Christian Science Monitor and quietly sit down by the roadside and read did much to stabilize the men of the command; if at night to hum or whistle the air from one of our Leader's hymns had the same effect.

Chaplain Dickey was first assigned to Camp Upton, New York. After a month's sojourn here he was transferred to Camp Lee, Virginia, where the 80th Division was in training. When the Division went overseas in July, the chaplain accompanied it. They spent the month of August at the front with the British army just north of Amiens. Here the chaplain did a good work in supplying Monitors to the front line troops—always finding them eager to receive the paper which brought them news of home. He was transferred in September to duty with the 91st Division, said to contain more Christian Scientists than any other one division, estimates ranging up to 1200 men. These troops were just being sent into active service and our chaplain, of course, accompanied them, endeavoring to keep in touch with his men as much as the rapid movement of the troops permitted. That he was indeed in the right place at the right time the following from one of his letters will indicate:

"Only recently I walked into a hospital to see a lieutenant who was very ill, and who was just making preparations to wire me for help. As far as he knew I was miles from his station. He had a splendid healing. On another occasion, I

walked out of a wood and across a road to where a southern California regiment was encamped and hidden from enemy observation and walked into a soldier whom I had never seen and who was at that moment looking for me."

After some weeks' service with the 91st, the chaplain was sent back for rest and recuperation, turning over his duties to another Christian Scientist. He returned to this country after the signing of the armistice and has since had his honorable discharge from the army.

Chaplain Jackson was first assigned to Camp Dix, New Jersey, and as it was early designated as an embarkation camp, he requested to be transferred overseas with the men among whom he had been working, the 78th Division. This division arrived in France in August and was at once sent to the firing line, serving forty-two days on the British front, twenty-one days at St. Mihiel and twenty-six days in the Argonne, most of this time under direct fire, although also used for support and subjected only to indirect fire and night air raids. With it went our chaplain. He was assigned to a point located about in the center of the various units of the division. From here he went about at first on foot, then on a bicycle and later in an army car, delivering Christian Science literature, especially the Monitor, to men in the various units and conducting or organizing Christian Science services for our boys. His senior chaplain wrote:

"Allow me to express to you my appreciation of the way you have carried on your work throughout the division. In the face of very great difficulties you have been untiring and successful in getting to your men. You have set a very inspiring example of devotion to the men in the trenches.

"Your task is peculiarly difficult because of the fact that

your men are scattered and you cannot throw yourself into the little group in which you live, and feel justified in forgetting all the rest of the division. In a way the ordinary battalion chaplain has an easier task. His men are always right at hand and he can get to them at a moment's notice."

As the 78th saw so much active service, our chaplain felt his first duty was to the men, and, although an officer, lived entirely with the "doughboys" in the war zone, eating, sleeping and marching with them.

In one of his letters he says:

"Aside from the incessant whizzing of shells and breaking of bombs overhead, I was gassed several times. I was caught in a barrage four times—once being held between two barrages for two hours and another time being knocked down by the concussion of high explosive shells and being the only one of several to come out of the 'salvo' unharmed. You will know by this I did my duty and was not a back area helper. I went 'over' with the last attack at the Bois des Loges and followed our division for three days going from Grand Pré almost to Sedan where we were relieved."

When the armistice was declared this chaplain was cited by Headquarters and chosen for duty with the 90th Division, having the freedom of the entire Army of Occupation for his field, however. He was located at Berncastel on the Moselle, where he soon secured permission to open a Christian Science soldiers' reading room which was utilized by many of the men. Later reading rooms where Christian Science literature could be obtained were also established under his supervision at Hillisheim, Daun, Zeltinger, Kinheim, Longkamp, Neumagen.

"I had the pleasure," writes Chaplain Jackson, "of making the official picture for government record before a 'movie'

camera of a religious service conducted back of the firing line. I stood on a tank reading from Science and Health with the Bible and Quarterly in my other hand and men grouped about me."

When the division left for home he was transferred to St. Nazaire, one of the principal embarkation ports for our armies in France, where he subsequently rendered most efficient service during the days of final embarkation.

The third Christian Science army chaplain, Mr. Walter S. Cross, received his commission on June 1, 1918, and was ordered to report at Camp Stuart, Virginia. He sailed for overseas the latter part of June, and on the trip across conducted services for the men on the deck of the steamer. Upon reporting at General Headquarters he was assigned for duty with the 89th Division, where Christian Science services were at once instituted, as well as those of an undenominational nature. He was shortly transferred to the 27th Division, where he found a number of officers and enlisted men interested in Christian Science. Six men came a distance of seven kilometers to attend the services, so highly did they value them. Athletic activity and some entertainment had been started, when the men were called into active service at the front. This division was cited for excellent work in the battle of the Salle, near Le Cateau. Their losses were very slight, the chaplain helping and encouraging them throughout the engagement.

After the signing of the armistice this division moved to the Le Mans area and the chaplain became active in helping the men in that district, beginning Christian Science services at the Forwarding Camp

where there were some 40,000 men and at the Belgian Camp where there were about 20,000. In one of his letters he says:

"At the Forwarding Camp two Y. M. C. A. girls have been a great help. They are both devoted students of Christian Science and alternated as Second Reader when no one else in camp was available."

This gives an interesting glimpse of the accomplishments of the women workers overseas.

In August, 1918, three additional Christian Science chaplains in the army received their appointments. Of these, one, Mr. Gustavus S. Paine, was assigned for work at Camp Devens, Massachusetts. Here he was able to cooperate with the representatives of the War Relief Committee who had been working in this cantonment for a number of months. The Christian Science Board of Directors provided him with an automobile to enable him to get about the camp more readily and as he said in one of his letters:

"I made it a point never to ride alone, even on my rounds of the camp, but always picked up someone going in my direction, including doctors, nurses, officers, privates and chaplains."

His duties, like those of the other chaplains, included providing for or overseeing wholesome entertainment for the boys and on account of its proximity to Boston he was able to secure some excellent talent for the Y. M. C. A. programs. Christian Science services were of course conducted under his supervision and much help extended to the men in uniform. With the signing of the armistice, the aspect of the work at Camp Devens was much altered and in consequence he received his discharge on December 19, 1918.

TIMELY RECOGNITION

The third chaplain appointed in August, 1917, Mr. Arthur C. Whitney, received orders to sail for France almost immediately and upon his arrival was assigned as chaplain at the Army Schools near Langres. After a short stay at that point he was transferred on October 5, to the 91st Division, in active service in Belgium. In this Belgian campaign our army operated in conjunction with the British, French and Belgian under the command of the King of Belgium, being used four times in support of the French in the battle of the Lys-Scheldte. The division went into action itself on October 31, remaining until November 10, at which date they had reached the town of Hoorbeke-St-Corneille. It is of interest to note that the division was cited for its successful work.

Of our chaplain's part in this advance his captain wrote as follows:

"Chaplain Whitney marched with me at the head of my company through heavy shell fire when we marched into position for the attack. His calm and encouraging remarks helped materially to steady the men and, I am frank to say, caused me to feel a security and confidence that I have never felt before under shell fire. Later I was ordered to take my company across the Scheldte and relieve a certain French organization to our front. Chaplain Whitney insisted on being with the company even though I told him how dangerous our task was. We passed through the French first line and, with the company deployed as skirmishers over a seven-hundred-yard front, advanced to a village (Hoorbeke-St-Corneille) eight hundred yards beyond. We took this village under heavy machine gun and shell fire and drove out fifty German machine gunners. Chaplain Whitney stayed with me throughout the engagement in the *front* line and I am glad to say my company did not suffer one single casualty. Divine Providence guided us safely to our position and we received word

that any further advance would be postponed. The following morning as we were forming for the attack, the armistice had been signed."

After the cessation of hostilities the 91st Division followed the Germans through Belgium as far as Brussels, later returning to France to the embarkation area near Le Mans to await transportation to America. During this time our chaplain was very active on behalf of his men and established Christian Science soldiers' reading rooms at the following places in Belgium: Hoorbeke-St-Corneille, Muelebeke, Herzele on the Franco-Belgian border and at Nogent-le-Bernard in France. The rooms were maintained as long as the army remained in these cities and were always the headquarters for Christian Scientists. Books marked for the lesson-sermon of the current week, and scriptural selections and hymns to further complete the service were always available. A set was always kept marked for the following week for the reason that from ten to twenty-five Christian Science services a week conducted by the men themselves were at one time being held in the 91st Division. The necessity for completely preparing the lesson is apparent and although readings for an entire service were at their disposal, the men often worked out new selections for themselves. These boys were also organized by the chaplain into what was called the "91st Division Literature Distribution Committee," which, as its name implies, made each Science boy a committee through whom our literature reached those who were ready for it.

Under the direction of the chaplain also what was known as a "Welfare Outfit" was organized and conducted. This consisted of a canteen, a three-chair

American barber shop, a tailor shop, a six-night-a-week entertainment, a reading and writing room, a recreation room fitted up with games of various sorts, and a package department. This last was an office to which men could bring all packages they wished sent home. They were weighed, wrapped and properly stamped and started on their trip across the Atlantic. So thoroughgoing and successful was the "Welfare Outfit" that an officer who inspected it declared it was one of the finest he had seen in France. Soon after, the 91st left the embarkation area and sailing from St. Nazaire, arrived in this country in April, 1919. The chaplain accompanied them and has since that time received his honorable discharge from the service.

We add with pleasure that since Chaplain Whitney's discharge, with the approbation of the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in France, the Marshal of France, Petain, who is Commander-in-Chief of the French Armies of the East, issued the following citation:

"Chaplain Arthur C. Whitney, 364 Regiment Infantry near Waereghem, Belgium, October 31, 1918, placed himself at the head of the company and marched with it to the reserved positions. By his courageous works and his coolness he aided in keeping good order among this troop."

The official record of the regiment mentions the incident as "one of the most deadly shellings which the regiment sustained." For this service the French Government awarded Chaplain Whitney the *Croix de Guerre* with bronze star.

The second of the two Chaplains appointed in August, Mr. George R. Bonner, was assigned to duty with the 31st or Dixie Division, then in Camp

Wheeler, Georgia. As the 31st was soon ordered overseas he accompanied it to Camp Mills, sailing to France in October, 1918, attached to the 106th Field Signal Battalion. Here he was stationed at the little town of Bracieux, Loir-et-Cher, and as the 31st Division was broken up on its arrival in France our chaplain remained with the 106th Field Signal Battalion, serving the wants of the men scattered through some thirteen towns in that section. Here he was active in securing and building up a good Y. M. C. A., which involved scouring the country round about to procure the necessary equipment. He also held regular army religious services in some ten different towns, assisting as well any Christian Scientists who came to him for help, being designated as Depot Chaplain for this area.

When later transferred to Cour-Cheverny, Loir-et-Cher, our chaplain was instrumental in starting a weekly newspaper, entitled, "Toot-Sweet." This was a success and became the organ of the Signal Corps men. Here also he secured a large tent auditorium for moving pictures and other camp entertainment, as previous to this no adequate place was available. Regular Christian Science services were also instituted at Cour-Cheverny. Something of the activity of the chaplain for one day will be indicated by the following from one of his letters:

"Tomorrow I must go about the area arranging for Sunday services; must call on the owner of a château to arrange for a dance for the major; look up a man in trouble in one of the battalions; take a book on farming that came to me by mail from Paris to another man; call at the hospital; go to headquarters on two items and arrange for some work for the band. That and visits to one or two men who have asked

me to see them are all that I have in view but experience has taught me to expect other incidents."

Our chaplain remained at Cour-Cheverny until the breaking up of the depot there, when he was temporarily assigned to Tours awaiting further orders. The following letter from a Y. M. C. A. Secretary who worked with our Chaplain will indicate something of the friendly relations established by him:

"Blois, February 21, 1919.

"To Whom It May Concern:

"It has been my pleasure to be associated with Chaplain George R. Bonner, U. S. A., in the work of the Y. M. C. A. in the A. E. F. I have found him a very energetic and efficient officer. Our relations have been the happiest. He was instrumental to a degree in furthering our very successful work at Bracieux and Cour-Cheverny in the Blois Division. His efforts in promoting the welfare of the enlisted men have been tireless, and he did all in his power to procure the meager supplies that it was possible to obtain.

"I want to emphasize the fact that Chaplain Bonner was more than solicitous that the Young Men's Christian Association should have due recognition, and any criticism of it was keenly felt by him. In behalf of the organization of my Division I wish to express herein my gratitude and appreciation.

"(Signed) Div. Secretary, Y. M. C. A., Blois."

In October, 1918, four Christian Scientists, Mr. Harry K. Filler, Mr. William M. Bartlett, Mr. Herbert W. Beck, and Mr. Don C. Gilman, were admitted as candidates to a Chaplains' Training School held at Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky. Of these, two finished the prescribed five weeks' course in four weeks and received their commissions. While at Camp Taylor the influenza epidemic was at its height and these

candidates were asked to do hospital duty, which resulted in healing to many.

Mr. Filler and Mr. Bartlett were graduated in November, received sailing orders at once and left for France on November 15 to be assigned upon their arrival overseas. Together they attended a Chaplains' School near Le Mans and were then ordered to duty, Mr. Bartlett to Bordeaux and Mr. Filler to Base Hospital No. 7 at Beaune. Chaplain Filler made the most of a wonderful opportunity to turn men's thoughts towards spiritual things through the shining light of a good example. For some months work among the men in the wards was faithfully done, each one soon learning that the chaplain was his friend and ever ready to be of service.

At Christmas time he wrote:

"The Red Cross gave each man a pair of woolen stockings filled. I was delegated to get them around the wards and it was a real pleasure for me to do so. I went into town, Beaune, and bought all the pretty little cards one store had, some 890, and asked fellows who were good writers to write the names of all the patients on them. Being mail censor I am quite sure that about every one of those cards is on its way to the States now, bearing mute evidence to the fact that the boys were remembered on Christmas day. I had arranged with the Red Cross to give me some extra stockings and I had a detail of men take them down to the forty-five fellows in the camp prison. I never did anything that was any more appreciated and it gave me a splendid opportunity to tell the fellows there that I was their chaplain and friend."

The chaplain's presence in the surgical ward came to be much appreciated, for the boys and the doctors felt his helpful encouraging thought and wanted him to be at hand during a trying time.

He held undenominational services in the hospital and one boy who was a regular attendant remarked:

"I feel different about things since I came here to the hospital and have heard you. You have brought God very much nearer to me than He has ever seemed before."

The progress made by the patients in the hospital was very marked and when the chaplain was assigned to duty at the A. E. F. University at Beaune the Commander of the hospital wrote the following letter to him, which speaks for itself:

"Headquarters, Base Hospital No. 77.
"APO 909, American E. F.
"Beaune, Côte d'Or, France.
"March 8, 1919.

"To whom these presents may come, Greetings:

"This is to certify that Harry K. Filler was the Chaplain of Base Hospital No. 77, APO 909, American Expeditionary Forces, France. His work with this organization was of the highest type. It was characterized by his tireless efforts to relieve the suffering of the sick and wounded and his conscientious desire to comfort, encourage and entertain the boys in the hospital. His was at all times a helping hand. He is a man of exceptional qualities and high ideals and he has done much to stimulate the moral standing of the soldiers and to relieve them in many material ways.

"It gives me great pleasure to testify to the character, integrity and veracity of Chaplain Filler. He came to us a stranger, but leaves with the love and high esteem of all the officers and soldiers of Base Hospital No. 77.

"(Signed)

"Lieut.-Colonel, Medical Corps.
"Commanding Base Hospital No. 77."

Chaplain Filler was then transferred to the A. E. F. University of Beaune, where some 18,000 soldier students were in attendance. His undenominational talks to the men were well attended, and on some occasions many were turned away. He also conducted a class in Bible study which was received with much interest. Regular Christian Science services were held Sunday and Wednesday for the boys who were interested. He had charge of the athletics of the University and himself sometimes took a hand in the game. He gave much care and supervision to work on the American cemetery at Beaune, for as he said in a recent letter:

"I am finding out what Paul meant when he spoke of being all things to all people."

The second of the two chaplains, Mr. Bartlett, after a short sojourn at the Chaplains' School at Château l'Aux Loupeland was assigned on December 9, to duty at Bordeaux in Camp de Souge. This was one of the finest and largest camps in France, having a capacity of 25,000, with some 13,000 troops generally in waiting there on their way back to the United States. The population was constantly changing, which gave the chaplain opportunity of reaching new men continually with the Truth. Two regular army services were conducted in a "Y" hut each Sunday and soon after the chaplain's arrival Christian Science boys in attendance at these undenominational talks marked our chaplain for a Scientist and sought him out afterwards. Our own services were soon started and a midweek meeting was also conducted. These were announced in the bulletin of religious services

so that newcomers to the camp found them as soon as they arrived.

The chaplain's room in camp became a haven of retreat for boys who wished to read and study undisturbed and in one case a boy who had not known what it was to have a quiet moment alone for months was healed of a serious throat trouble while reading the lesson in the chaplain's quarters. As elsewhere our chaplain had charge of the athletic and entertainment features of the camp, visited the hospitals, distributed our literature to those who wished it and found his days very full of busy activity.

One especially interesting development of his work was the kindly help to men in the Detention camp. These men were not permitted to sail for home because suffering from a form of venereal disease. They were looked upon as being in disgrace and their general condition was one of condemnation and hopelessness. Several of them appealed to our chaplain for help and he met nearly every day with a little group dubbed in fun "The Day Break Club," to read the lesson. Much earnest study took place and splendid progress was noted. During the month of February, Mr. Bartlett was made ranking chaplain of Camp de Souge, which put all the activities of a religious nature under his direction. Some months later the medical lieutenant colonel and the major of Camp de Souge, requested our chaplain to accompany the Detention Battalion to a new camp near Bordeaux. His work was so much appreciated that he was asked to remain with the staff until all of the men were on their way to America.

The third candidate who attended the Chaplains'

Training School at Camp Taylor, Mr. Herbert W. Beck, received his commission in November, 1918, and was assigned to duty at Camp Kearny, California, in December. Here the Christian Science Welfare House built by the War Relief Committee was just about to be taken over by the Government. Our chaplain was given this house as his headquarters and conducted Christian Science services on Sunday and a midweek meeting as well.

The following splendid bit from one of his letters will indicate something of the work he did:

"Since I have been in the army, four army chaplains have been healed and taken up the study of Christian Science. The first was in training camp, the others here. One here has been healed of an abnormal growth, nervous prostration and another chronic ill, while his wife has been healed of misplacement and tuberculosis. Another after being healed and reading his Science and Health saw that this was the way that he had been seeking, took his discharge saying he 'could no longer preach the old dogmas' and went with his little book into civil life to be a Scientist. The fourth was instantly healed of stomach trouble of years' standing and he asked me today to take over his wife's case. The second and fourth chaplains just mentioned are faithful attendants at my service in the Christian Science House and also make it their place of meeting with me each day."

The fourth candidate at the training school, Mr. Don C. Gilman, was graduated in November, 1918, and received his commission in the Reserve Force. As the armistice had just been signed, he was given his discharge and returned to civil life.

Only one chaplain was appointed in the United States Navy. In January, 1918, Mr. Richard J. Davis of Boston, Massachusetts, received his commis-

sion, and was assigned for a short time to the Boston Navy Yard. While there, a service was held aboard the U. S. S. *Salem,* of which the Christian Science Sentinel for April 27, 1918, had the following description:

A NOTABLE SERVICE

"On Sunday, February 17, 1918, there took place on one of the battleships stationed at Boston Navy Yard, Charlestown, Massachusetts, the first official Christian Science service to be held in the United States Navy. The ship was rigged for church, and at a few minutes before half past ten o'clock the bugle call for divine service was sounded. At the same time the church flag which bears the cross was raised, this flag being the only one which is ever hoisted above the Stars and Stripes. It remained flying throughout the duration of the service, to indicate that divine worship was in progress aboard the ship.

"The reading desk consisted of two steel barrels and several flat gratings covered with an American flag. A piano was available for hymns and solo, and chairs and benches were provided for the audience. Chaplain Richard J. Davis, U. S. N., acted as First Reader and Lieutenant Samuel W. Burgess as Second Reader. With the exception of a few guests the audience was composed of naval officers and seamen to the number of thirty or forty. All felt the deepest gratitude and joy that Christian Science services are now made possible for the men of the navy."

The chaplain was soon assigned for permanent duty aboard the U. S. S. *Roanoke.* This ship was one of a fleet of ten mine-layers then under orders to sail for an European base to lay a barrage of mines across the North Sea. A number of officers and enlisted men on this ship were students or interested readers of our literature and before the squadron left this country

the chaplain was conducting Christian Science services, as well as undenominational services, aboard his ship.

When the fleet silently sailed for Europe under heavy convoy, our chaplain was designated as chaplain for the entire squadron of mine-layers and he, with the other Christian Scientists aboard, began to realize the magnitude of the work they were called upon to do. The chaplain's cabin became the headquarters for the Science boys and an earnest group gathered in it each day to read the lesson and gain spiritual inspiration for the work in hand. We quote from a letter written by these men to the Christian Science Board of Directors about the time of the annual meeting in June, 1918:

"Dear Friends: We, a group of men serving together on an American man-of-war, take this opportunity of expressing our loyalty to The Mother Church, and the Christian Science Board of Directors in annual meeting assembled.

"Never did we realize the priceless gift of Christian Science more than in these days of war, when it has carried us in the silent watches of the night through seeming danger of fog, mine, and submarine, and has been an ever-present Comforter assuring us of a complete and certain safety.

"We wish to express our gratitude for the provision of literature and our vest-pocket edition of Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, for the good things provided through the Comforts Forwarding Committee and the Camp Welfare workers, also for the privilege of holding Christian Science services each Sunday on board our ship.

"It is a comfort for us to know that we have the loving thoughts and prayers of our friends, and Christian Scientists everywhere, helping us in our work, whether it be in the trenches or on the sea.

"Almost every night those of us who are interested in

Christian Science gather for the lesson-sermon, or to hear some good article from our publications. We are grateful for the opportunity we have of proving the Principle of Christian Science; and striving each day to abide in the secret place of the most High, we know that evil shall not come nigh our dwelling.

"The enclosed checks for $100 are the contribution of the boys and officers on board our ship to the War Relief Fund.

"With loving wishes,"

(Signed—Committee.)

On the trip across, a torpedo from a submarine was fired across the bow of the *Roanoke* but failed to strike it and from then on the story of the protection afforded this entire naval operation is one which to human thought seems miraculous. The mine barrage was laid across the North Sea from the Orkney Islands to the coast of Norway and during their nine months abroad, the mine-layers made thirteen trips out into the North Sea, in constant danger from enemy submarines, airships, and floating mines, while being laden themselves with tons of the deadly explosive TNT. Each of the larger ships, it is said, carried three times as much of this explosive as that which destroyed the town of Halifax.

It was the duty of our chaplain to accompany his ship on these mine-laying excursions, and in addition to the task of providing for the spiritual needs of the men, he was given what was known as a "vigilance watch." Thus while the other officers slept and the squadron, sometimes accompanied by twelve destroyers and armed cruisers, silently steamed along in the darkness of the North Sea, the Christian Science chaplain was on guard, knowing the power of the

ever-presence of God to protect all these ships. There were several submarine attacks on the fleet but none were successful.

Once the entire squadron, through an error in the navigation charts, crossed and recrossed a German mine field without harm. Despite fogs and other obstacles, the barrage was laid without a single casualty or other mishap. What this means may best be understood when it is stated that this mine-laying squadron was known as the "Suicide Fleet." The work was thought to mean certain death and this was based on the experience of the British mine-layers for, of their twelve original ships, nine are said to have been lost with all hands aboard.

Aside from his work as a Christian Scientist in the fleet, our chaplain provided entertainment and amusement for his men. On July 4, 1918, under the supervision of Chaplain Davis, an entertainment was given in Inverness by the men of the American navy to the officers and men of the British navy. It was felt by all present to be a significant event, coming as it did on Independence Day, and its result was to create a splendid spirit of cooperation between the navies of the English-speaking peoples. It is also interesting to note, that in this entire mine-laying operation the American and British navies worked side by side.

Chaplain Davis was detached from his ship for a short time by Admiral Sims and was instrumental in helping establish Christian Science Welfare Rooms at various naval bases in the British Isles. The room maintained at Inverness, Scotland, one of the bases of the mine-layers, was much enjoyed by the American sailors and was crowded to overflowing during the influenza epidemic at a time when the Y. M. C. A. hut

was closed by quarantine. Of the opening of this room the chaplain wrote as follows:

"On Sunday, September 29, we held the first service in the Rooms. We had a sweet and simple service in accordance with the Manual. At the invitation of the Welfare Workers I acted as First Reader and Mrs. S. as Second.

"This is the first Christian Science service ever held in Inverness, the largest town in northern Scotland, and of course we know that this first public declaration of the Truth is the most important thing that has ever happened in this ancient town."

When the armistice was signed and the fleet inspected previous to its departure for home, the Christian Scientists were interested to hear that the health record of their squadron was the finest that had ever been known for any organization, naval or military. On board the U. S. S. *Roanoke*, also, not a single case of influenza was reported during the epidemic.

Before sailing for America, the Christian Science chaplain conducted a party of some twenty men to London. These American lads were guests at the Christian Science Welfare House at 112 Eaton Square and received a welcome which they will probably never forget. On the home trip the U. S. S. *Roanoke* was rammed in a fog off the coast of Newfoundland, and although laden with TNT, the mines had been moved the day previous from the very spot where the boat was struck. She was able to make her port in safety and sailed into Hampton Roads in December, 1918.

Chaplain Davis was later transferred to the U. S. S. *Supply,* which was the flagship of the Train Atlantic Fleet, whose duty it is to supply the Grand Fleet with all of its necessities. Christian Science services were

conducted aboard the *Supply* and the chaplain was kept busy attending to the wants of his men. Chaplain Davis was later transferred to the U. S. S. *Columbia.*

That the work of the Christian Science chaplains more than justified their appointments there is no doubt. The grateful expressions from the many men to whose spiritual and material needs they ministered is ample proof of this. In addition, the friendly relationship which they have established and maintained with chaplains of other denominations and with representatives of the medical profession did much to sweep away opposition to Christian Science and break down barriers of misconception. Our chaplains proved themselves to be real Christian soldiers.

IX

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER OF THE MOTHER CHURCH

In October, 1914, the War Relief Fund of The Mother Church was opened for the purpose of aiding Christian Scientists who were suffering as a direct result of the war. In addition thereto the European Relief Fund was opened in December, 1914, to assist those who were not Christian Scientists. These two funds were consolidated in April, 1915, from which date, until the present time, relief was extended to those in need, without regard to their religious affiliations.

As appropriations from the War Relief Fund were made to various countries in Europe, including Germany, prior to the United States entering the war in April, 1917, British subjects were estopped by their Government from contributing to such a fund. In order that contributions might properly be received from them, a Special War Relief Fund was provided early in 1917, but before any appropriations could be made therefrom, it was merged with the War Relief Fund upon the removal of such restriction.

With the entrance of the United States into the war, the great opportunity presented itself of ministering to the temporal and spiritual welfare of the

men in the army and navy service. To provide adequately the funds needed for carrying on this work, the field was invited to contribute to the Christian Science Camp Welfare Fund, which was formally opened on January 3, 1918. As the broad purpose and essential unity of the War Relief work in all its phases became more clearly understood, it was deemed advisable by the Christian Science Board of Directors to consolidate this fund with the War Relief Fund, which was effected on March 25, 1918, under the name of the Christian Science War Relief Fund.

In the interim, a special fund was opened to which contributions were received for Halifax Relief, which money was paid into, and appropriations made from, the Christian Science War Relief Fund, for the specific purpose of relieving those suffering from the disaster in Halifax, in December, 1917.

Including the sum of $34,000 contributed for Halifax Relief, the total contributions for War Relief from the beginning to the formal closing of the fund on June 2, 1919, were $1,988,000. Receipts from interest on daily bank balances and on United States Liberty Bonds purchased when there was an ample balance on hand to permit of this being done, amounted to $16,000, which made a full $2,000,000 available for War Relief.

Among the larger appropriations for direct relief in Europe were the following: Switzerland $75,000, Italy $42,000, Holland $29,000, Germany $68,000. All of this money was distributed directly to the recipients by the War Relief Committees of The Mother Church, who carefully investigated each case before relief was extended, and who performed this

service with unstinted devotion and without financial compensation.

As the needs became clearly apparent, additional appropriations in varying amounts were made to Armenia, Syria, Belgium, Poland, Roumania, Serbia, Lithuania, Russia, Turkey in Asia, Jamaica, Australia, Canada and Mexico, totaling $88,000.

The larger appropriations of $186,000 to Great Britain and Ireland, and $214,000 to France, included not only the relief extended in these countries during the earlier part of the war through the Committees of The Mother Church therein, but also the direct assistance given to the men in the service, the conducting of the special Reading Rooms established for their use, the salaries and expenses of the War Relief Workers, and to an extent the distribution of Christian Science literature.

Remembering the paramount consideration of winning the war for Principle, and the necessity of accomplishing this result in the most effective manner through equipping the men in the army and navy for the great task before them, demands were made upon the War Relief Fund for the supplying of Bibles, copies of Science and Health and of The Christian Science Monitor, pamphlets and other authorized Christian Science literature, to the amount of $323,000. In the effort to accomplish fully the great purpose in hand, workers were employed for the various camps, and ports of embarkation; welfare buildings, and other reading and rest rooms in convenient locations, were provided; and also such automobiles and other facilities as were needed for carrying on the work; all of which required a further expenditure of

$627,000, the major portion thereof being disbursed in the United States. This sum includes also the salaries paid to the Christian Science chaplains in the service,—which were additional to the amounts received by them from the United States Government,—as well as the cost of the general administration of the work as a whole.

Still another large appropriation was that of $111,000 to the Comforts Forwarding Committee (Christian Scientists), in Boston, whose efforts were directed primarily to the provision of clothing imperatively needed by refugees, especially women and children, and of knitted garments for the men in the military and naval service. Additional to this sum were the many contributions, totaling a substantial amount, made by Christian Scientists to the many Comforts Forwarding Committees elsewhere, for the carrying on of their work. Besides the total funds thus made available for this practical phase of War Relief, hundreds of Workers in the field gave their time freely and lovingly to this beneficent activity.

Including balance on hand June 2, 1919,—since which date no contributions have been accepted,—and proceeds from sale of equipment, there remains a balance of $242,000 in cash and bonds for continuing refugee and reconstruction work.

Christian Scientists may well rejoice in the genuine relief afforded, and the manifest healing of fear, limitation, and distress, both physical and mental, accomplished on every hand through the compassionate ministrations of Christian Science, in acknowledgment of which many voluntary testimonials have been received, a few being given in other chapters of this report.

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Deeply grateful for the prompt, continuous and loving contributions by Christian Scientists to the War Relief Fund established by The Mother Church in evidence of the "practical Christianity" to which our revered Leader refers in Science and Health (page 224-22), we are reminded of her beautiful and inspiring statement on page 518 therein:

"The rich in spirit help the poor in one grand brotherhood, all having the same Principle, or Father; and blessed is that man who seeth his brother's need and supplieth it, seeking his own in another's good. Love giveth to the least spiritual idea might, immortality, and goodness, which shine through all as the blossom shines through the bud. All the varied expressions of God reflect health, holiness, immortality—infinite Life, Truth, and Love."

Where did these large sums of money come from, and why did the contributions to the War Relief Fund pour into the Treasurer's Office so generously, so steadily and so abundantly? Perhaps the following excerpts from letters will best answer these questions.

A Grand Army man helps the boys of today:

"On my way to Hampton the other day I noticed a Christian Science wagon on the road being used for the benefit of the military in this neighborhood. Enclosed please find check for the Christian Science organization to be used for our boys in the United States service."

The children of an Alaska Sunday School have a part in the work:

"The children of our Sunday School ask you to kindly accept this amount as their contribution toward supplying literature for the boys at the front."

A little boy adds his savings:

"Enclosed find check for $15 with love and gratitude for all the unfoldment of Truth which this beautiful work is doing. I am only a little boy of ten years but I know what Christian Science means at this time to our brave boys. This is just a little of my savings."

The Busy Bee Fund bears compound interest:

"I am enclosing the check I mentioned (from the Busy Bee Fund) to pay for the Bible and if you can use the small remainder I shall be very happy."

Some unorganized Scientists send their share:

"We had a beautiful service in my home in the mountains of Virginia, Sunday, October 20. Nine were present. Enclosed find check for $20 which this household sends as a 'Thank Offering' for the many blessings received through the understanding of Christian Science."

Some soldiers in Eagle Pass, Texas, forward their collection:

"Enclosed find one Postal Money Order for $5, this being the amount collected at our Sunday services to be used for the Camp Welfare Fund. It is only a small token of our gratitude for many benefits received but it is joyfully given."

A soldier's gratitude for healing:

"I am indeed grateful for the healing received and enclose a small check to be used so that Science and Health may be placed in the hands of other boys."

A Students' Association gives the Fund its loyal support:

"Enclosed please find check for one hundred dollars made out to the Treasurer of The Mother Church which amount is a contribution to the Camp Welfare Fund by the Students' Association of Mrs. S."

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

An English soldier sends Christmas greetings:

"I should like to contribute the enclosed as a token this Christmas of my gratitude for all that I owe to Christian Science during the last five years."

"Before they call I will answer":

"I am enclosing a small contribution to the War Relief and Camp Welfare Fund. I wish to assure you that I appreciate this great work for the soldiers. I wrote you that my son was in a hospital in France, hoping you could send help to him, but already your Workers had visited him, as he said, bringing joy and hope. They supplied him with Monitors, Sentinels and Journals and gave him free treatment."

From an eyewitness of our work:

"It gives me great pleasure, in which my wife joins me, to send our little mite to the fund that is doing such wonderful work. We had the privilege of visiting several training camps in the south and southwest and it filled our hearts with joy to see the Camp Welfare hut and automobiles carrying the Truth to all. We have seen several soldiers lying on the ground reading the little vest-pocket edition of Science and Health by our Leader."

Upon receiving word from France:

"Please accept my most heartfelt thanks for your efficient and comforting work with regard to my brother. I was told by a member of the Home Service of the Red Cross that the reply was in her experience almost unprecedented in its quickness. You will find enclosed a check for ten dollars, five of which is to pay for the cable and the other as a thank offering."

True reciprocity from a soldier in the American Expeditionary Forces:

"I am sending subscription price for all Christian Science periodicals, the Christian Science Quarterly, and Science and

Health printed in alternate French and English. I am being greatly helped every day by the articles in the Monitor and Journal and wish as many others as possible to have the same privilege."

In appreciation of good news by cable:

"Your kind and welcome letter received a few days ago. Also your cable, and appreciated it so much—in fact, I hardly know how to thank you for your kindness. Here is a small sum for the Christian Science War Relief Fund. Would be glad if I could send fifty times this amount."

A birthday gift to the fund:

"Enclosed please find one dollar for your work. I am eighty-four today and this dollar was given me for a birthday present. I wish I were sending eighty-four dollars."

A corporal in France appreciates the War Relief Room:

"Enclosed in this letter is a check for $25 to be drawn against my New York bank. It is difficult to find words of appreciation for the wonderful kindness, aid, comfort and joy experienced in these rooms. They are the first hours of real satisfaction passed in France."

"An offering pure of Love" (Poems, page 13):

"Enclosed find money order for two dollars lovingly given for War Relief and Camp Welfare work. I wish it could be more, but more will follow. I am a widow, earning my own living and have made the supreme sacrifice of giving my baby boy to his country. He passed over in the battle of Soissons, July 19, 1918. Surely, 'greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.' I am so thankful for the blessed understanding I have of Christian Science and love and reverence our Leader more every day because she gave this 'Key to the Scriptures' to needy humanity."

X

UNSELFISH LABOR RICHLY REWARDED

In the foregoing pages the outstanding features of the activity of the Christian Science War Relief Committee have been described. Into this final chapter have been gathered together various letters and reports from individals, all indicative of some phase of the good accomplished. To make a complete estimate of such a work is, of course, an impossible task and these points are submitted only as indications of what has developed and may be expected to develop from the seed sown by the War Relief Committee.

First in interest, perhaps, to Christian Scientists is the great mass of evidence accumulated to show the physical healings resulting from the application of Christian Science to the treatment of disease. Some of these healings were brought about by the ministrations of War Relief Workers, some by the efforts of soldier Scientists in their own behalf or in behalf of comrades.

The first duty of the Welfare Workers was naturally to Christian Scientists although they by no means limited their attention to these men. The group of testimonials which follow are expressions from Christian Scientists in the service to whom our Workers were able to be of assistance.

"In loving gratitude to God, and to Mrs. Eddy, the interpreter of the beautiful teachings of Christ Jesus, I wish to tell of the many benefits which I have received through Christian Science since entering the army. Almost every day for the past eighteen months it has required the conscientious study of our textbook and the Bible to meet the seeming problems which have presented themselves.

"I am happy to say that my redeemer in every instance has proved to be the practical application of the words of Jesus, 'Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.'

"I wish to tell of one incident which especially proved to me the ever-present help of divine Love. I was doing guard duty at one of our flying fields, and one day I felt a bit resentful for having to stand guard for three hour periods which I thought was a little too long for any one person. That night during my watch from 12 to 3 I became suddenly ill. I tried my best to realize the Scientific Statement of Being as given on page 468 of our textbook, but I soon reached a state where I was almost unconscious. When the guard relief arrived I was assisted to the squadron and when morning arrived I had been taken to the Post Hospital. After an examination by the medical officer I was told that I was suffering from a case of acute ptomaine poisoning.

"I had been hurried away to the hospital without a bit of Christian Science literature, to say nothing of my Science and Health, Quarterly and Bible. I realized that this was no place for me and that I must do my work in Science the best I knew how.

"This all happened on a Friday night. On the following Sunday, the Camp Welfare Worker missed me, as I was never absent unless he had received word in advance. Having inquired for me at the squadron the Worker soon located me at the hospital and found me there early the following Monday morning. I was so happy when I saw him appear in the doorway, looking here and there for someone and knowing

that the someone was myself. I immediately asked for some Science literature and he thereupon went back to his car and brought me a Journal and some Sentinels.

"I realized how much better I felt after he had spoken to me, and had given me some good things to think about. I told him that I expected to be out of the hospital by the middle of the following week, but he only smiled and said nothing. That smile and the thoughts he gave me resulted in my being discharged the following morning perfectly well. It was indeed a lesson to me to guard my thoughts as well as the 'Government property in view.'

"Since that time I have had many remarkable experiences showing the efficacy of Christian Science when its teachings are honestly practiced. The literature, consisting of the Monitor, Sentinel and Journal, has always been most welcome to the boys in the service, and how eager were those who knew nothing of Science for that wonderful and remarkable daily, 'The Christian Science Monitor.' In my training as a pilot I have never had a thought of fear and my work has gone on with much satisfaction, not only to myself but to my instructors as well. I am grateful for having had the privilege of being a reader at several of our army camps during the war, and it has given me an invaluable and helpful experience.

"I am indeed grateful for all that Christian Science has done for me, and only by loving obedience to our revered Leader's admonitions and by following the teachings of our textbook can I show my sense of gratitude.

"Cadet Alfred P. Pearson,
"Ellington Field, Houston, Texas."

"As testimonial to the exceedingly good work a Christian Science Welfare Worker did for me I wish to relate my experience at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas.

"In the first place, I was flying every day, averaging about three hours a day. This lasted for approximately seven

months. All of this time, through the guidance of one of the Welfare Workers and the help of the literature I was enabled not only to have a clean record as instructor but also to accomplish my work without accident of any kind.

"Last fall, during the 'flu' epidemic, I became suddenly ill. The day before I became unconscious, some Science literature was handed me, with the Welfare Worker's name enclosed. I refused medicine of any kind, and called on the Welfare Worker for help. The next day I was forcibly taken to the hospital and passed almost immediately into unconsciousness. The Welfare Worker was with me every day and several nights practically all night.

"It was at a critical stage, when the army surgeon at the hospital said I could not live until a certain hour. They had done absolutely all they could, and told my parents that I would probably be dead within a few hours. This condition lasted for over a day. The Worker brought me back into sunshine and life again, staying constantly with me.

"The case was considered a very peculiar one in the hospital, and the surgeon predicted all kinds of after effects, none of which developed, nor ever will, for this experience has shown me thoroughly what Science is and what it will do for one.

"I trust that this will be of some service and help to those in need of it. Words fail to express my appreciation of the wonderful help Science has been to me through the Welfare Workers at this camp.

"WILLIAM HUTTIG, JR.,
"Kansas City, Mo."

"While training at one of the large army camps I became very ill. I was first sent to the camp hospital and then to the base hospital, where the trouble was diagnosed as tuberculosis. My condition gradually grew worse, and the surgeon in charge notified my parents that my condition was serious.

"My mother wrote the Christian Science War Relief Workers, who visited me at once, leaving a copy of the textbook,

Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mrs. Eddy, and some other literature.

"After careful reading of this literature I began to see the truth. My condition was so improved in two days that I was allowed to put on my clothes and walk around. The hospital authorities changed the diagnosis of the case and made the record show that it was some kind of fever. In two weeks I was entirely well and felt as strong as ever, and was discharged from the hospital.

"The second day out of the hospital I rode my horse on a thirty-mile hike with no ill effects whatever.

"I am indeed grateful for my knowledge of Christian Science, and wish to express my sincere thanks to those Christian Scientists who helped me find the right road.

"WARREN R. WHITEHEAD,
"Brownwood, Texas."

"Upon several occasions during my service of over a year in the army I found it necessary to call upon a Christian Science War Relief Worker for help and it is my desire to relate a couple of incidents wherein I did receive help and to express my sincere gratitude both to the Worker and to the organization.

"At the time of my enlistment, I was still unable to overcome entirely the belief that I was not in perfect condition and was somewhat afraid that I would be unable to pass so rigid an examination as is required in order to be accepted as candidate for commission in the Air Service.

"After talking with a Welfare Worker at Omaha and being assured by him that he would help me, I felt entirely different about myself and appeared before the examining board full of confidence. To make a short story of it, I did pass the examination and was pronounced physically perfect by all the doctors present and was accepted.

"Soon after reporting for duty, all men were vaccinated and inoculated. My second inoculation seemed to cause a high fever and, receiving a pass on the following day, I went

home and went to bed. At the same time the influenza manifested itself, and at times during the first night in bed I was delirious. The next morning the Welfare Worker called and soon after he arrived I responded to his treatment and went to sleep. When I awakened the fever had subsided and I was much better. Next morning the authorities at the Post informed us that the ambulance was coming out and would take me to the hospital, which was of course against my wishes. But personal desires amount to very little in the army. I was kept in the hospital and by the next morning was perfectly well, but I had a hard time convincing the doctors of this, for they wanted to keep me in a few days longer. At about eleven o'clock in the morning I called up the Welfare Worker and asked him to help me with this problem. However, later the same morning the sergeant came to me, saying that the doctors had decided I could go back to the barracks.

"All through my two ground courses and the flying course, God, through my knowledge of Him as taught in Christian Science, was an ever-present help and I know I could not have come through it all so well as I did, without this aid.

"Soon after receiving my commission I was assigned to a company and was ordered overseas. Naturally it was hard to leave my wife and child, but with the help we received through the Welfare Worker we saw that everything was for the best and we felt confident that we would be united again and would be taken care of during our separation.

"Many others received the same help as I did through the Christian Science War Relief Committee and it certainly has proved to be a wonderful organization. I have command of no words with which to express my gratitude to God and to Christian Science for the many benefits and blessings I received before my entry into the army, during my service and since my return to civil life.

"Jere Van Rensselaer, Jr.,
"Lincoln, Nebraska."

"I wish to express my gratitude for the blessings I enjoy because Christian Science has entered into my experience. For the past twelve years, I have relied entirely upon Christian Science as my physician. However, while in the service of the government, though I was inoculated and vaccinated a number of times, because this was compulsory under medical regulations, I was never affected by these operations as I knew no harm could result to God's idea, since man in His image and likeness, needed no serums of any sort to sustain perfect health, because perfection is the natural order of man's being. The sergeant who gave me the last shot seemed somewhat annoyed because the previous shots failed to take effect, so he pushed the needle fully a half inch into the flesh of my arm, remarking as he did so, 'I know you feel that anyway.' Though the mark is still visible on the arm, it is perfectly healed over, and no ill effects followed from this treatment.

"During the period when a number of the men in Vancouver Barracks, Washington, were under medical treatment, suffering because of the epidemic, I had listened to so much talk of the disease that I was caught napping, for I was not standing 'porter at the door of thought' (Science and Health, page 392), and as a result there was evidenced the symptoms of the 'flu' in all its fury. I tried for two days to overcome it, but on the third day it seemed that a trip to the hospital was inevitable. I managed to get away from the tent and found a Camp Worker who talked with me for an hour and a half and made clear to me the thought that God gave man dominion over all error and therefore I was the master over any evil that tried to attack me, and he held this thought so firmly that I was suddenly freed from all discord and returned to camp rejoicing and slept well all night. I ate very heartily at breakfast and resumed my duties as acting mess sergeant.

"The many blessings I enjoyed through the efforts of the War Relief Committee of the Christian Science movement

will ever remain a fond recollection never to be blotted out. The free distribution of literature, especially The Christian Science Monitor, that wonderful paper disseminating the constructive news of the world, is a source of much gratitude.

"Christian Science is surely my greatest possession.

"AUGUST BRAUNS,
"Portland, Oregon."

"On the evening of May 3, 1918, while cranking a car, the engine kicked and broke my right arm at the wrist. The shock was so severe that I lost consciousness for a few moments and was taken into the Christian Science Camp Welfare building, where I was given immediate attention by the Worker.

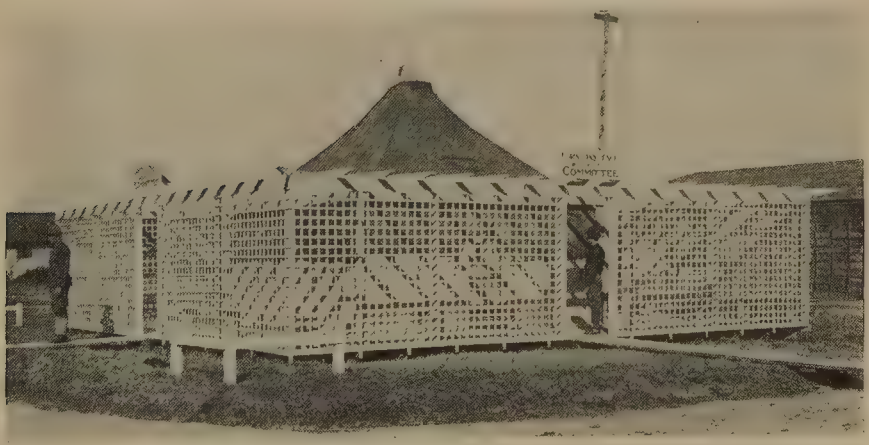
"After I had recovered from the first shock I was taken to the infirmary and had the bone set. Later, permission was given me to remain at the Welfare building all night. Much work was done for me that night and in the morning the sergeant who dressed the arm told me that I was making such excellent progress that the splints could be taken off in a couple of days. The surgeon said the arm was doing splendidly but the splints must remain for seven weeks, as that was the customary time.

"On the fourth night the splints came off during my sleep and in the morning I arose and dressed myself, using the arm that had been broken without being conscious of it. I slipped my arm back into the splints and reported for examination but did not tell the surgeon that the splints had come off and that I was able to use my arm. He commented upon the excellent progress I was making but insisted that the splints be worn for several weeks more.

"I was confident that my arm was healed and used to amuse the men at the Welfare Room by waving my arm, splints and all, in the air when they would ask how I was progressing. It was apparent to everyone that my arm was well and I know that I could have used it in the regular way had the surgeon permitted me to remove the splints.

The Tent used in Camp Hancock, Georgia, before Building was constructed

At Camp Beauregard, Louisiana



A War Relief Tent, Ellington Field, Houston, Texas

"Three days after the splints were removed I was doing typing for the officer in charge. In fact, three days after the arm was broken I was using the typewriter although under difficulty because of the splints.

"After the first week no treatments were given because we were confident that the healing was accomplished. For this demonstration, as well as for a great many others, I owe a debt of gratitude to Christian Science.

"GEORGE H. ANDERSON,
"Sgt., Quartermasters' Corps."

"I am indeed most grateful for all the good that has come to me through the study of Christian Science. At this time I am particularly grateful for the great work that has been done for us who have been in service.

"I was stationed at Camp Johnston, Jacksonville, Florida, and during my stay there, the love and loyalty of the Christian Science Welfare Workers brought to me an understanding of joy and peace that I had never before thought it possible to possess.

"One day there seemed to be with me a sense of being without my usual strength, which became more and more marked as the day passed, until in the evening I was indeed in great distress. Not realizing the need for immediate work, I did not ask for help until I had retired, and after 'lights out' I realized that I was very quickly losing all control of my body. I was unable to raise either my arms or legs. It happened that the boy who was next to me was a Scientist, so I asked him to dress and telephone to the Welfare Worker in Jacksonville for help. He did so but before his return I had also lost my voice and was unable to thank him. I remember his return but in the darkness he was not able to see that I was still awake, and as I could neither move nor talk, he supposed me to be sleeping and went to bed once more. I was, however, very much awake but paralyzed by fear. I

remember nothing more until the bugle sounded in the morning, waking me, and I was perfectly healed.

"A few weeks later I was called to my home in Canada, where my mother was passing out under medical treatment. My grief and the sense of separation, together with the hatred and resentment toward those I thought responsible, seemed almost too great for me to bear. Christian Science again met my need. It taught me to know and love my only Father-Mother God, as I never had before, and I realized that in knowing who is my mother and my father that I was healed of all that seemed so real. I shall never forget the beautiful way our Welfare Worker stood with me during this trial.

"It was my privilege to be one of the readers in the Christian Science meetings held in camp. This position awakened me to see what it is to be a real Christian Scientist, and I am rejoicing daily in increased understanding.

"Christian Science is such a simple, demonstrable, practical religion. As each day passes and I know more of God who is Love and of man's relation to Him, my gratitude increases. I realize, however, as our beloved Leader writes on page 3 of Science and Health: 'Gratitude is much more than a verbal expression of thanks. Action expresses more gratitude than speech.' My great desire is that I may so grow in the understanding of Christian Science that my life by my actions may prove true gratitude and that I may be found worthy of the name of a genuine Christian Scientist.

"Ralph E. Carson,
"Detroit, Michigan."

"A new name for an ailment affects people like a Parisian name for a novel garment. Everyone hastens to get it," says Mrs. Eddy on page 197 of Science and Health. Never was the truth of these words more conclusively proved than in the epidemic of fear, called Spanish Influenza, which raged through the

United States and Europe last fall. To those who are used to looking for the mental cause of all physical effects, it was not surprising that this gust of evil should have swept most violently through our army and navy training camps. Certain it is that as one of our Workers wrote, "If this thing had been called German instead of Spanish no one would have taken it for each would have said, 'Away with it; we're not afraid of anything German and never will be.' "

In any event during those weeks of stress and fear, Christian Scientists everywhere were grateful for a knowledge of God's goodness and for a calm assurance of protection, and through this understanding they were able to be of immeasurable help to those who were suffering in this dream of sickness. Probably the helpfulness of our Camp Workers was brought home to more families at that one time than at any other during the activity of the Committee.

In some of the camps with the placing of the quarantine, Christian Science services were abandoned perforce. In one camp through the faithful effort of a woman Worker permission was granted by the camp surgeon and our services went on uninterruptedly.

Elsewhere our Workers being told that the entire district was under quarantine and if they entered they would be obliged to stay in the camp, elected to follow this course, entered and remained inside, bringing healing and comfort to many. In a camp of this sort such good work was done by the soldier Scientists that the Worker wrote of them as follows:

"One of the things for which we are most grateful is the fact that our boys were able to help the others during the

recent epidemic. One of them had charge of thirty-six others. The first night he went to each patient and tried to allay his fear and to reassure him. The doctors soon began to turn to him and he was put into a position of considerable responsibility and usefulness. Another boy read the 91st Psalm to his patients, and although only a beginner in Science, through using what he knew of the truth, was able to overcome a very high fever for one of the boys."

Similarly, a soldier writing from England says:

"I was placed in a hospital unit and sent overseas. This took place while the fear of the so-called influenza was on. . . . If you will remember I am just a beginner in Science, and so I held to the truth as best I could during that season. I did not use any preventives or medicine as did my associates. I had no fear and felt it my duty to serve instead of being served."

Our Camp Workers themselves at this time were working day and night and in many places, being unable to care for all the cases presented to them, they were obliged to ask for assistance from other practitioners who gladly volunteered their services. Perhaps the following letters will indicate the appreciation with which their efforts were met. The first is from the surgeon of the Air Service Mechanics School, St. Paul, Minnesota:

"The Surgeon desires to thank Mr. G. and the members of the Christian Science Welfare League for their great kindness and thoughtfulness in caring for the men sick in our hospital during the recent epidemic. The care and trouble taken in providing for the comfort and welfare of the patients have been very much appreciated.

"You cannot realize how much such helpful, practical service as yours has meant to the patients. Your splendid cooperation and ready, willing service throughout the very

trying emergency have meant much more than can be expressed. The medical officers are extremely grateful to you, and are very appreciative of all that you have done."

The second is from a medical officer at the hospital in Camp Beauregard, Louisiana:

"I take the means of this letter to express to you as best I can, my appreciation of your help and assistance during this trying situation in camp.

"When you offered your services in the beginning of this critical situation, we needed help upon whom we could depend. We were a little surprised at your offer, not at all on account of the man from whom it came, but we did not know how your people's views were along the lines of such humanitarian work as you have done here.

"I felt that everything was as it should be in my absence with you as Ward Master. One thing I want to say to you, a thing that I appreciate, while your position as Ward Master would have safeguarded you against any orderly duties of the hospital,—the thing necessary to be done, was the thing you did.

"Again thanking you for your faithful and fearless work during this serious time, I am,

"Your friend."

At a camp in Colorado our Worker, upon volunteering the services of himself and his car, was told that everything was well organized in the hospital except in the diet kitchen, where he might be useful. Upon visiting the kitchen he was told that the patients craved ice cream and as the result of an appeal to the women of the near-by Christian Science churches our Worker was able to deliver a daily supply of ice cream and fruit to the hospital during the period of need. Sincere expressions of gratitude came to him from the members of the Medical Staff for this service.

Through the activity of the Comforts Forwarding Committees at various other points bathrobes, convalescent gowns, and other much-needed garments were supplied to the hospitals at this time.

From among countless others the following testimonies have been chosen as representative of the healing work accomplished at this period.

"To whom it may concern:

"I wish to express my gratitude for the benefits I have received through Christian Science, especially for a wonderful demonstration which I have but recently had.

"On the evening of November 28, 1918, I felt very ill and as I am a member of a military organization, was required to report to the medical authorities. There I was told that I had a very high fever and was suffering from laryngitis. I was ordered to bed, rapidly becoming worse till I was delirious. The medical authorities then pronounced my illness as being pneumonia.

"I had read a little about Christian Science but had not advanced very far. It became known to our Camp Welfare Worker that I had been somewhat interested in Christian Science so he at once came to the hospital and asked if I wanted help. I answered, 'Yes.'

"The third night after the Worker had first seen me, the doctor in charge made the assertion that I could not possibly live till morning, but the healing Truth triumphed and four days later the doctors declared me absolutely out of danger. The doctor in charge of my case made the statement to me that in all his practice, he had never seen so sick a man as I had been, become absolutely well.

"The sickness left me without a trace of any other affliction such as it often does. My healing was perfect. The doctors' only comment was that they could not understand it.

"I am unable to express all the gratitude I feel for the many blessings I have received and also for the wonderful

work the Christian Science War Relief Committee has done in our camp. In the reading room maintained by them, we have a nice, quiet place to study, write letters and read all authorized literature, which has been a great help.

"Very sincerely,

"Cpl. W. R. Hoppenstedt,
"Hdqrts. Detach.,
"8th Reg., U. S. M. C."

"Christian Science War Relief Committee, Boston, Mass.:

"I am more than grateful for a healing of an attack of influenza, which took place last February. At that time I was located in a Marine camp at Galveston, Texas. It took considerable discretion to keep from being sent to the hospital for several weeks of confinement. This was avoided through the ever-ready helpfulness of the Camp Welfare Workers. They asked me to stay in their own home during the first afternoon I could get off from camp. I accepted their invitation and was at their home about the middle of the afternoon. By nine o'clock of that evening the perfect healing came and I walked back to camp knowing confidently that I was well. This is one of the many healings I received in camp which I am grateful for.

"Fred R. Brooks,
"Sgt., U. S. M. C.,
"Discharged. Nardin, Okla."

"Christian Science War Relief Committee, Boston, Mass.:

"I have been somewhat interested in Christian Science for about six years and have received some benefits from the study thereof, but it was not until after entering the army that I was brought to realize the great power of divine Love.

"Recently I was obliged to go to the base hospital as I was suffering from double pneumonia. While there I was examined one evening by the assistant chief of staff and they decided that what was called fluid was on one of the lungs.

They said that I should be X-Rayed the next morning to determine at what point the operation of aspirating should take place.

"A few minutes later the Christian Science War Worker came to see me. He told me to remember the fact that God was closer to me than the air I was breathing and that nothing could affect me but good and that he would give me treatment.

"The next morning when I was X-Rayed there was not any indication whatever of fluid, and there was no operation.

"I am very grateful for the blessings given me through Science and I trust that each day will bring me to more fully understand the Truth as obtained through the teachings of Christian Science.

"JOSEPH FIDEL,
"Camp Lewis, Washington."

"Christian Science War Relief Committee, Boston, Mass.

"Dear Brethren: I thank you most sincerely for the comfort received through your splendid Committee in a recent experience.

"Our son was in training camp near Boston, and we received word that he was in the hospital, a victim of the recent epidemic. Having had no further news for some days, and with the papers telling of so many cases of fatalities, we felt we must know how he was. I wrote to the Editors of the Christian Science periodicals, and my request was handed by them to your most worthy Committee. I at once received a message that our son was well enough to be leaving with his company for a flying field in the South.

"There is no Christian Science organization in the little frontier town where we are living at present and I had not known of the work before this experience. I am enclosing a check to help further this work of love."

"I wish to express my gratitude for Christian Science especially during the time I was in the army. During a year's service I had many proofs of the protection of divine Mind.

A Christian Science service at Camp Hancock, Georgia

Interior views, Christian Science War Relief Building,
Camp Hancock, Georgia

"One healing I wish to tell about was during the so-called influenza epidemic. I was stationed in an embarkation camp awaiting orders to start overseas. These orders were received and we boarded the transport, but after two days and a night out we were brought back, the reason being that the epidemic had broken out on board.

"I was placed in the hospital with many others and was said to be in a very serious condition. As soon as possible I had one of the boys in my company call up the Camp Welfare Worker and ask him to come to me, which he did, making the trip at night.

"In the meantime, I had been placed out on the porch where all the hopeless cases were cared for and was not expected to live. Through the kindness of the nurse, the Welfare Worker was allowed to come to my cot. Work was done and the healing was instantaneous.

"In two days I was released from the hospital in a normal condition but was later placed in what was called the observation ward because the doctors could not understand how I had recovered so quickly. I spent twenty days in this ward, perfectly well, during which time the Welfare Worker visited me often, always bringing me a good supply of literature, for which I was thankful.

"I wish to express my appreciation of the good work done in the camps where I was stationed by the Christian Science Camp Welfare Workers. They were always willing and ready.

"Herman F. Grant,
"Los Angeles, California."

From the innumerable letters at hand the following have been chosen as typical of what was done for men who were not Christian Scientists before entering the service, but who, through physical or spiritual need, turned to Science for help.

"It is a pleasure to be able to add my testimony to those of the many who have found cause for gratitude for the Christian Science Camp Welfare work.

"I was stationed at Camp Johnston in Florida. Before entering the army I knew nothing of Christian Science. A lecture was given in Jacksonville, which made me realize that this was the sort of religion I had been seeking. I borrowed a copy of Science and Health from the camp library, but after reading it I did not feel that I had been benefited. I knew, however, that the fault was mine.

"About two months later a Christian Science Welfare Worker was stationed at my camp and one day he and his wife called at my barracks for me. I was given a copy of Science and Health, a Quarterly, a Song Book and several pamphlets. The Workers assured me of their desire to help any one interested, to a fuller understanding and realization of the benefits to be derived from Christian Science. They very kindly explained to me many points which had troubled me. The remainder of my stay in camp was made pleasant by their friendship and untiring interest in my welfare.

"I was given treatment and cured of a stomach and bowel trouble which I had come to believe was chronic and incurable. Glasses which had been worn for years became unnecessary and were laid aside. The desire to smoke left me, much to my surprise, as I was smoking almost continually and believed that I received pleasure from it. Many other minor troubles disappeared and every problem connected with my work seemed to be solved with benefit to me.

"The weekly meetings were a source of comfort and inspiration. They were well attended and greatly enjoyed by the boys who were interested in Science. I am deeply grateful for all the benefits I have received and give thanks for the love which made possible the work of the Christian Science Camp Welfare Committee.

"John W. Farr,
"Lowell, Mass."

"I want to express my gratitude to God for healing I received while in Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas. At first the doctors at the base hospital said it was necessary that I be operated on for hernia. Then it was decided that my physical condition would not allow me to undergo an operation, asthma and consumption being the other ailments. On meeting the Camp Welfare Worker, I asked him if anything could be done for me and he, of course, explained that everything was possible with God. My healing took place in a few days and from that day to this I have never seen the hernia, nor felt any effect from the other so-called diseases. I also was troubled with a stomach complaint before leaving home, which has disappeared.

"Since my return I have put on weight so rapidly and look so well that all my friends remark what good the army has done for me, but I know that it is my faith in God and the light I have gained through Christian Science which has brought this improvement. I make the best use of the little khaki Science and Health, reading it every morning on my way to work. My wife is also greatly interested. I am very grateful to God and to our Leader.

"G. E. Mayhew,
"Chicago, Illinois."

The following was written direct to a Worker:

"I was taken to the naval base hospital on November 28, 1918, with spinal meningitis. This is considered to be a very deadly disease, in 1918 ninety-five out of a hundred cases proving fatal. I lay suffering in its worst agonies for nine days. I did not know at the time even that you had been there, for I was too far gone. My mother, who was by my bedside, told me you had promised to do some work for me. On the next day after your visit my suffering left entirely and it was only a short time before I was out of bed. I have had the quickest recovery on record and am today sound and whole in every sense of the word. Indeed, so good is my

condition that I will be sent back to duty, whereas the others will get medical discharges from service.

"Christian Science has worked wonders for me and shown me the truth. I am banishing what we term fear and feel that armed with this new truth I can cope with everything.

"Earl P. Andrews,
"Atlanta, Georgia."

"I am indeed thankful for the great healings which came to me while in the army through Christian Science. To Mrs. Eddy, the author of Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, I owe a great debt of gratitude.

"According to materia medica I had lost my reason and was put behind bars with others of my fellow comrades. When I asked for an interview with the attending surgeon I was refused, and for a couple of days I was made to mop the floor, do kitchen work and carry heavy bundles of linen, under guard.

"Prior to this I had attended a Christian Science service and had been given a copy of Science and Health. The attendants seeing I had it, instructed me not to read it and tried to take it away from me.

"In the meanwhile I got in touch with the Camp Welfare Worker. He visited me and explained man's relation to God, telling me: 'Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.' In this ward were three boys, two of whom were often in the strait-jacket, who always wanted to know who the man was that came to visit me. I told them and through the Camp Welfare Worker they also were beautifully healed.

"During this time a large boil appeared on my face, which was very painful. The Camp Worker noticing it, asked me if I wanted help. After treatment all pain left me, proving that 'There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter' (Science and Health, page 468).

"My healing was so complete that my commanding officer recommended me to be raised to a higher rank.

"Since leaving the service Christian Science has helped me

The Little Cottage by the Lake, Camp Wheeler, Georgia

Christian Science Building, Camp Fremont, California

out in many problems. For the literature, the services and the help received, I am very grateful.

"Deveney Gerald Wilson,
"Dallas, Texas."

"While I was serving in France as a lieutenant in the 118th Engineers an arterial tumor developed, medically known as an aneurism of the aorta, supposedly due to the exertion and exposure of the service. The best medical authorities of the army, both in Europe and America, declared that the case was incurable and that they could not do anything to relieve it. I had long been friendly to Christian Science, as my wife has been a student for years and I had been impressed with the air of progressiveness and success of the average Scientist, but there had never seemed to be a sufficiently urgent reason for me to study Christian Science until the army physicians in France told me that they could not heal me and advised me to put my affairs in as good shape as possible, as they did not expect me to survive the trip home.

"I then began reading in earnest the vest-pocket edition of Science and Health, which had been given me by the War Relief Committee, and was helped by Scientists in my company. Also I met a Y. M. C. A. Secretary who, when he found that I had been given up by the physicians, recommended Science, without knowing that I was already studying it. With the help mentioned, I made a safe return trip and at the base hospital to which I was assigned in this country, I came directly in contact with the Christian Science War Relief work. My recovery has been a marvel to the army specialists, and a large number of them examined me before I was discharged. At a meeting of one of the examining boards, soon after my return, one officer expressed surprise that I got back alive, so I told them that it was due to Christian Science. I am glad to say that I received only the best and most considerate treatment after, as well as before, my avowal of Christian Science help.

"There is still much to be accomplished but the overcoming of fear, weakness and distress has been very convincing and inspiring. I am glad to tell what Christian Science has done for me and of the help I have received through the Christian Science War Relief Committee, both to express my gratitude and in order to benefit others.

"Robert James Weston,
"San Antonio, Texas."

The letters which follow are of unusual interest, showing as they do, the experiences of three men, in different branches of the service, who are convinced that their understanding of Christian Science preserved them from danger and brought them through situations of grave peril to safety and health.

"Christian Science came into my life a short time before I joined the United States naval service, but the actual study of this Science did not commence until about the time I was called into active duty, two years ago. Instead of the hardship and unpleasantness which seemed to be my portion in the early days of the war, gradually a change took place in conditions, until, at the time of discharge, I could look back and say, 'I am most grateful for my period of service during the war,' for it gave me an understanding of Christian Science, a demonstrable knowledge of it, a changed outlook on life, a new hope. Gratitude fills my heart each time this period comes to thought.

"During the early days of the war I was put on one of the German vessels, taken over by our government to be converted and used for carrying troops over to the other side. At that time the work seemed very hard and laborious, especially as previous to that period I had had no experience of that sort. We would work all day and sometimes late into the night carrying heavy crates, barrels and boxes containing supplies for the ship. At that time too, it seemed as

though I was not enjoying good health, so conditions soon seemed to become unbearable. However, I continued to read at any spare time I had and the thought came to me to do the work in hand the best I could and to know that faithful work would surely bring its own reward. And it did, for one day a chaplain came aboard and as Christian Science teaches us to be helpful in any way we can, I offered my services to do his typewriting or anything which might be helpful to him. About two days afterward he sent for me and in a short time I was made his assistant, helping to provide entertainment and amusement for the soldiers we were carrying across, as well as the crew. This proved to be a most congenial employment.

"About a year ago, while returning from one of our voyages abroad, we were torpedoed by a German submarine, about nine o'clock in the morning, nearly six hundred miles from the French coast. As was my custom in the morning, I had been reading some of the literature, when a short time before the first torpedo struck, something prompted me to go to the other end of the ship, which leading I obeyed. A few minutes later a torpedo struck the vessel only a short distance from where I formerly had been, killing several men.

"By this time our general alarm signal had been given, which meant for us to go to our lifeboat station, and only a few seconds after I obeyed this order, another torpedo exploded not far from the spot where I had just been, accomplishing its errand of destruction.

"The ship by this time was listing considerably and becoming rapidly filled with water, the order was given to abandon ship, which we did, and in the short space of twenty-seven minutes, one of the largest of the American transports was swallowed up by the waves.

"We floated around in the water for about three-quarters of an hour, when an object, which looked like a sail, made its appearance upon the horizon and as it drew nearer we perceived it to be the submarine which had fired on us, returning

to see to what extent it had accomplished its unholy purpose. It circled round about the lifeboats and rafts several times looking for our captain and not being able to find him, evidently decided to follow other plans. The officers motioned to the lifeboat in which I happened to be to come alongside and tie up to them, which order we obeyed. After making our officer in charge a prisoner and taking our pictures, they gave the order to shove off, which we did with alacrity. Then they calmly proceeded to load up their gun and make everything in readiness to fire. They took what appeared to be perfect aim at our lifeboat. It seemed the end. Complete silence reigned, and the boys, with white faces, waited for the shot which would end this phase of mortal existence. During this time it seemed to me that I could realize only short, incoherent snatches of truth, but in this grave moment the thought came to me: 'Be not afraid, these Germans are, in truth, as much God's children, perfect ideas, as you Americans. All God's ideas, even now, are in perfect unity and God's ideas cannot work to destroy one another but work together to help each other in love.' Afterwards I learned that at least one other of my comrades had been trying to realize the truth at that time. The shot was never fired, but instead the submarine soon submerged.

"It was getting late in the afternoon and there was no sign of anything, upon that mighty expanse of ocean. Hour after hour passed and toward dusk, our captain had all the lifeboats and rafts tied together to make things as safe as possible and there upon the broad bosom of the sea, beneath the stars we waited, not knowing what was in store for us, but knowing that the good God who had cared for us during all the day, would not leave us in the blackness of the night. About one o'clock the following morning, a light blinked near us. At first we thought it was another submarine, but it proved to be two American destroyers which had picked up the wireless S. O. S. from another ship in the convoy and had come to our rescue.

Christian Science War Relief Building, Camp Mills, New York

In the Reading Room at Camp Mills, New York

"After two days on the destroyers we finally arrived back in France, where the lads suffering from exposure and wounds, were sent to the hospital, but not one of the four students of Christian Science aboard our ship was injured in the slightest way. As for myself, I had not even got my feet wet during the entire experience.

"When we landed back in America, after our journey, I soon learned that there was a Christian Science War Relief Room in that port, and it was my greatest desire to secure a new Science and Health, Bible and Quarterly. When I went in one of the Workers, seeing I had not come to write, asked if he could be of any assistance and when I asked for the books and related how I had lost my others, he remarked, 'It would indeed be a pleasure to give you a new set.'

"All I can say is thanks be to God for this wonderful Truth, for Jesus the Wayshower, and for our beloved Leader.

"EUGENE A. OPPENHEIM,
"Hoboken, New Jersey."

"I am very appreciative of the broad thought and kindliness of the Christian Science Board of Directors and all who supported the Christian Science Camp Welfare Committee and made this work possible. It has helped the army at the front. It has helped those in the rear. It has helped in the camps at home. It has helped the men in the hospitals. It has shown Christian Science to the world.

"The welfare work in this country was carried on in the most efficient way in order to prepare those seeking help for the great trials and corresponding demonstrations of Truth overseas. This work was done in such a loving manner and the daily visits were so helpful that all of our needs, while in camp, were met. We were supplied with Science and Health and other literature when we needed them most, and were assisted along the paths of Truth by the Workers.

"The Christian Science services were of the greatest benefit,

also the Camp Welfare Rooms with their wealth of literature. All who were interested in the study of Christian Science at the camps became acquainted through the meetings and met at the homes of the Workers. This proved to be a great blessing at the front, where no Science help was available. It allowed us to consult one another, to assist one another, and to lend and borrow Christian Science publications. After three months at the front, when I was finally stationed where there were Welfare Rooms, it was a great happiness to enjoy the regular Christian Science services. It was like arriving at home again. The generous help of the Workers cannot be adequately described. Many have told me of assistance given. I myself was helped to find my right activity and the proper attitude towards my work.

"As a regimental commander I had charge of the equipping and transportation of thirty-three hundred men for overseas duty. This was done without the least trouble and with the lowest sick rate. On board the transport a case of scarlet fever was found, and the fear of the spread of it was met by the thought, 'Divine Love casts out all fear.' None of the so-called contacts ever manifested the slightest sign of the disease. Likewise, the almost immediate trip across France was accomplished without mishap, through constant reliance upon omnipotent Mind.

"While I was instructing some men in the firing of grenades, a rifle tromblon from which these rifle grenades are discharged, was blown to fragments. Instantly came the thought of great thankfulness that our protection was with the Lord; for not one of the ten men standing about was hurt, although large fragments of the grenade and discharger were found all about us.

"In September of last year, my division was selected to participate in the initial drive in the Argonne. Here again the demonstrations of the power of Christian Science were almost hourly in occurrence. I was constantly led aright. My duties at one time required me to find the positions of some

machine gun emplacements in the front lines in the dark, without a guide. This was accomplished without great difficulty, by knowing that the problem was a purely mental one, and that man is controlled by divine intelligence.

"When the orders came for the assault of the German lines, I was enabled to work continuously for several days and nights with little or no sleep. On the third day of the drive, my immediate superior having been injured, I was placed in command of the regiment. Turning to God, the unfailing source of help, I was able to work out all of the many problems that arose.

"On the night before we were relieved I was called to Brigade Headquarters from the front. A heavy fire of Austrian eighty-eight shells was sweeping the road which I must follow to keep my direction. Having constantly in mind the scientific application of the 91st Psalm, I accomplished the trip. My clothes were torn somewhat by the shells; but no injury came to me. On returning to my headquarters I was again hit by shells. This time the blows were so hard as to render me unconscious for several hours; but again I was not hurt, beyond feeling the force of the blows of the shell fragments, which did not penetrate my body. Upon reaching my headquarters I was informed that I had again been sent for by the Commanding General. I made the trip again under the same conditions, and was again uninjured, although my clothes were very much torn and one of the staff remarked that my first-aid packet, worn on my hip, had been shot away.

"I owe my deliverance to Christian Science. This was not only true in my own case, but in that of every one of those near me whose dependence was on God in these hours of peril. Not one of them was injured.

" 'Whatever holds human thought in line with unselfed love, receives directly the divine power.' (Science and Health, page 192.)

"(Signed) KARL I. BEST,
"(Late) Lt. Col. Infantry A. E. F."

"During the many months I have been with the colors I have had great cause to be grateful for the beneficence of The Mother Church and the branch churches around the world.

"While doing duty with my regiment on the western front in France we were caught in a barrage. After several hours with my comrades falling all around me, I too fell exhausted; but with these words on my lips, 'Here, Lord, I fall in Thy arms,' and repeating the Scientific Statement of Being from Science and Health, together with a verse from the 91st Psalm, 'A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee.'

"When I regained consciousness I was in a field hospital, receiving the best of attention and recovering from the effects of poisonous gases. Later, together with two hundred other disabled soldiers and convalescents, I was placed aboard the steamer *Mount Vernon* bound for the United States. Some two hundred miles out from port we encountered a nest of German submarines and were torpedoed, the shot striking amidship. Taking my place in the lifeboat, I began to realize that divine Love is present at sea as well as on land and protects all His children. When I opened my eyes it was to behold the love that exists between the overseas boys and the sailors, for the marines took big men in their arms, carried them up a flight of stairs and tenderly placed them in lifeboats. There was no excitement. The enginemen were able to disconnect the broken boilers, resume steam in the others, and we returned to port under our own steam.

"I was treated at three different army hospitals in the United States. After many examinations and X-Ray pictures, materia medica diagnosed my case as pulmonary tuberculosis, active in the upper lobes, caused by the poisonous gases I had inhaled. They administered maximum treatment without appreciable results and apparently did not understand the case. I asked for Christian Science treatment which was cheerfully given and my improvement was very rapid. The

speedy recovery was even a greater mystery to the doctors and they were very slow to concede it. Here again Christian Science freed me, for I was finally passed by a board of doctors and given my discharge.

"It is with a heart full of gratitude to the Christian Science War Relief Worker, that I remember the journey he made from a distant city to come to me; and I am most grateful to the others who throughout my confinement in the hospitals have always been my kindest friends. When I seemed to be despondent, the War Relief Worker was there with his word of cheer and was ready with his car to take me to and from the services on Sundays and Wednesdays. For all these blessings I will ever give thanks to God, and be grateful for our beloved Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, who gave to the world this blessed truth through which I have been saved.

"Sgt. Leo K. Brough,
"E Co., 4th Engrs."

It is pleasing to be able to say a word also about the cordial cooperation and sincere appreciation our Workers received in almost every instance from the representatives of other welfare organizations.

Says a Y. M. C. A. Secretary at Hempstead, Long Island:

"Dear Sir: Just a few lines to speak of my appreciation of your work in the camps.

"I think from a disinterested standpoint, and yet from the standpoint of one who has felt the spirit of cooperation, that the work conducted by the Christian Science Camp Welfare League is to be commended in the highest terms.

"From my own observation I desire to say that I have seen no indication of any attempt at an introduction of sectarianism, but your work appears to be marked by a willingness to serve the boy in uniform, regardless of sect or creed.

"As a minister of another denomination, I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion thus unreservedly.

"With every best wish for your success in the work,

"Sincerely yours,

"W. Norman Libby,

"Building Secretary, Y. M. C. A."

The Post Chaplain at Paris Island, South Carolina, writes:

"Gentlemen: It gives me great pleasure to tell you of the excellent work that your representative has been doing in our Camp on Paris Island. He has been very courteous and tactful in all his relations with the authorities. His ministry to the men has been most gracious and has been very much appreciated. In every way, he has contributed to the inspiration of the men and has been building them up in faith in God and in devotion to the cause of righteousness.

"With much personal appreciation of the Worker as a friend, I am.

"Yours sincerely,

"George S. Rentz."

The librarian of the A. L. A. branch at Camp Lewis, Washington, sends this hearty commendation:

"Gentlemen: Permit me to say a word in appreciation of the fine work of your Committee. I consider your work in Camp Lewis one of the most active and potent factors among civilian efforts to maintain the morale of our citizen army. Maintaining morale is only a question of preserving a normal attitude of mind, which in turn means making a soldier's life as nearly like that to which he has been accustomed as is possible and consistent with the service. This seems to have been the theory upon which your work has been based and your success has been marked.

"Your Workers here have been devoted and untiring, and

in the time they have been here they have accomplished wonders. They are cheery people, whom to meet is a pleasure and to know a privilege, and many there are in camp who know them. Your little building is without exception the most homelike place I have seen in camp. You can little guess what a fireplace and 'real' furniture, a rug on the floor and a picture on the wall, mean to a soldier. They are precious things, once lost, now found again.

"Permit me to offer you my congratulations and best wishes for your continued success.

"Very truly yours,

"ALBERT R. POWELL,
"Assistant at the Camp Library."

The representative of the Jewish Welfare Board at Camp Mills writes to our Worker there:

"My dear Sir: Since I expect to leave on Wednesday next for a period of about a month, may I take this opportunity of again assuring you that my associates, who will be in charge of the work during my absence, hold themselves in readiness at all times, to serve and cooperate in every way possible.

"It has been a genuine pleasure to work with you, particularly since your interpretation of service has been one, not alone of service to Christian Scientists, but to all men in khaki. This feeling I know is shared by the various agencies in camp and it is no longer a question that the work you are doing is a decided contribution to all welfare work. Your building is popular, your interest in the men genuine and your personality—the reason for it all.

"Keep up the good work and don't hesitate to make us prove that we are with you—heart and soul.

"Very sincerely yours,

"ARTHUR K. DEUTSCH,
"Field Representative in Charge."

A Red Cross director says:

"1. On behalf of the two hundred and fifty boys who have been confined to the hospital at Fort George Wright, those unfortunate ones who have passed and those happy ones who are well or convalescing, permit me to thank you and through you, the members of the War Relief Committee for the splendid aid rendered during the Emergency Epidemic at this post.

"2. The liberal quantity of fruits, preserves, jellies, grape juice, etc., furnished by your organization contributed immeasurably to the comfort and welfare of the sick and eased the suffering of those poor patient boys whom we lost. The generous, willing help in nursing, letter writing, and janitor work, which was given without evidence of pride or reserve by the many kind friends sent to the hospital by your Committee, relieved a situation which, without this aid, would necessarily have been most acute.

"3. Will you kindly convey the assurance of my sincerest appreciation to all those who gave of their time and energy through you as Camp Representative and who, in their splendid spirit of unselfishness, have neither sought nor received personal credit or thanks.

"Cordially and sincerely yours,

"R. C. STEEPLE,

"Field Director, A. R. C."

At a time when there was some talk that others wished to restrict the activities of this Committee, many officers were willing to go on record as believing that the Christian Science War Relief Committee was a helpful organization, whose activity they desired to see continued. Several of the letters written at this time follow:

"Dear Sir: I wish to thank you for the kindness extended to me since coming to this camp. I am also very thankful

Christian Science Building, Camp Kearny, California

Ready for the service, Camp Kearny, California

for the help I have received through the medium of the Christian Science Welfare Committee in the form of literature, Sunday services, etc.

"Although I am not a member of the Christian Science Church, I have been the recipient of all these favors, for which I am very grateful.

"The Christian Science Welfare work has been an agency for good in this Camp to many others besides myself, and is conducted altogether along non-sectarian lines.

"I hope that this work can be continued in the army camps in this country and abroad, because of the good it is bringing to our soldiers.

"Sincerely yours,

"DAVID S. PATTERSON,
"2d Lieut., 16th Cavalry, U. S. A."

"I have not been in this camp a very long time but while I have been here I have been struck with the quiet restfulness of your welfare building and the cheerful atmosphere of helpfulness that pervades it. I have also observed your readiness to assist any soldier in any way, both in your building and throughout the camp. I have heard it said that when there was an important service to be rendered or quick transportation needed about camp the Christian Science car was always at everyone's service. And I would like to thank you on behalf of my men and myself for what you are doing for the morale of the army, or in other words—'for the good of the service.'

"WILLIAM R. RANDALL,
"1st Lieut., Inf., U. S. A."

"1. Concerning the value of the activities of the Worker at this Camp, I desire to say that in the distribution of The Christian Science Monitor he is doing a work of great merit and value to all officers and men, from a non-sectarian standpoint.

"2. His personal touch with those of Christian Science belief is a real personal service of great value. The Christian Science faith is so entirely different from other beliefs that men who are in trouble naturally seek, and should be entitled to, contact with persons of their own way of thinking.

"3. Personally I should be extremely sorry to see the Worker's activities brought to a close for any reasons whatever.

"J. B. CHAFFEY
"Major, Q. M. C."

"1. Having been stationed at Camp Wheeler with the 31st Division where I observed the activities of the Christian Science War Relief and Camp Welfare Committee for about a year, and also for one and a half months in Hoboken, New Jersey, I feel that I can heartily endorse their work.

"2. Their camp reading rooms provide facilities for reading, writing, and lectures, aid in cases of distress, and entertainment for soldiers and their friends.

"3. I am not a member of this faith, but I have been greatly impressed by their generosity, earnestness, and their excellent welfare work.

"H. L. BUTLER,
"Lieut. Col., U. S. A."

At the beginning of this chapter the healing work accomplished by the War Relief Committee was mentioned as being first in interest to Christian Scientists. Second, perhaps of equal importance, has been the effect of the War Relief activities upon the Christian Science movement as a whole.

Christian Scientists have sometimes been charged with being self-centered and lacking in interest in that which concerns the general welfare. While they themselves knew the falsity of such statements it is,

nevertheless, cause for gratitude that such misconceptions have been largely corrected in public thought by the war time activities of our movement. As one of our State Committees has phrased it:

"The community of interest which was made manifest in the effort to carry the message of Truth to soldiers and sailors has brought out permanently the thought and ideal of the brotherhood of man. It has been a source of gratification everywhere to know that our church has been able to stand before the community as a Church Militant in a great cause."

Another note of gratitude is added by the Committee who wrote:

"The Christian Scientist not only found that he could enter the war work and still keep 'within the wide channels of The Mother Church' (Church Manual, page 45), but he learned the joy of giving. In this work many have been healed of the belief that only the activity of the branch church had any demands on them, and are grateful for a closer relationship and a clearer understanding of what The Mother Church stands for, thus gaining a broader sense of what a humanitarian is."

More important than the attitude of the public at large towards Christian Science, is the good which has come to Christian Scientists themselves through this joint activity. One of our State Committees puts the matter very well in the following words:

"The Christian Science movement in our state has experienced immeasurable benefits, as a result of the War Relief activity. Not the least of these is the cordial cooperation and closer Christian fellowship that has been brought about through its agency. The churches and societies have responded generously and cheerfully to the call for funds and

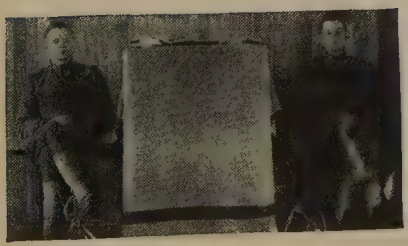
help of various kinds. This willing and helpful spirit has served to unite hearts and hands in the maintenance and upbuilding of our beloved cause. As one church writes: 'The oneness of purpose in this work has developed a unity and friendliness between our neighbors and ourselves, which is one of the blessings not to be overlooked. The War Relief work has been a great blessing not only for the present but for the future. We are grateful for the channels provided by The Mother Church, through which our branch church has been able to express its love and gratitude and to demonstrate a better understanding of substance; which better understanding has been the impetus to raise our church debt during the next two years, instead of seven years, as the plan was before the War Relief work began.' Those churches and societies which have manifested the deepest interest in this War Relief work have noted an increased attendance at their Sunday services; a more spontaneous response to the invitation extended Wednesday evenings to give testimonies of healing through Christian Science; a larger attendance at lectures; a quickened activity in the Reading Rooms and in the distribution of the literature, as well as a more generous support, financially and otherwise, of all church activities."

Another State Chairman writes:

"The effect of the War Relief and Camp Welfare work upon the Christian Science movement in our state is the development of a consciousness of greater unity among Christian Scientists and a sense of power of action, the consciousness that we can, if called upon, do a great work well, each doing his part."

Still another writes:

"There has been a distinct broadening and quickening of spiritual thought here. This has come from the enlarged view of the true idea of brotherhood that was gained through acceptance of this opportunity for loving service to the



A Few of Our Boys

stranger within and without our gates, as well as those of our own household. Evidences of this are to be found in the closing up of the ranks where disunity had seemed to exist, in increased activity for the cause, in more spontaneity in testimonies and in a growth of attendance at branch churches."

Universal participation in the War Relief work was one of its most helpful features. On this point one Committee says:

"Besides the activities in the organized branch churches of The Mother Church, individuals and groups of Christian Scientists in isolated parts of the state lovingly cooperated. Churches and societies both large and small expressed great joy that this privilege had come to them."

The natural result of this unity of thought and action was in quickened activity throughout the Field. In one of our larger cities the sense of fellowship established by joint participation in War Relief work, together with a deeper gratitude for Christian Science, prompted a united effort to raise sufficient funds to dedicate all the church edifices in that city within a short period of time.

The larger giving which was stimulated by the needs of the war work, quickened the sense of abundance in a church of another state and brought forth the following:

"Since starting the War Relief fund and working out this problem of supply, our attendance has increased and we have been able to meet our regular expenses much more easily than before."

Still another evidence of good resulting from the cooperative activity of Christian Scientists in working for the War Relief Committee is contained in these words:

"Through the affiliation of the members of the State Committee, which brought together each month representatives of the seven largest churches, and through the constant communication with all the churches and societies by correspondence and visits of the members of the State Committee, a fellowship and common purpose and interest now exist which will no doubt be perpetuated by means of the cooperative work throughout the state by the Literature Distribution Committees which have now been organized by all the churches."

Another Chairman writes along the same line:

"A greater interest has been manifested in our periodicals by reason of this War Relief work, and I believe we have a better appreciation of the missionary work accomplished through a systematic and intelligent distribution of our literature by our local organization."

The outcome of this activity, roused and stimulated by the unselfish desire to bring the blessing of Christian Science to the men in uniform, was inevitable. Services were inaugurated in many places where they had never previously existed. Informal organizations were established and in a few instances what had been informal gatherings became regularly organized churches or societies. The following cases will illustrate this point:

From Port Townsend, Washington, our Worker wrote:

"I am happy to tell you that on last evening the Christian Scientists of Port Townsend voted to continue the War Relief Rooms as Christian Science Reading Rooms, and to organize a Christian Science church. The meeting was a very helpful one, a spirit of love and unity pervading all. We feel that the real church has appeared in consciousness and that

we are building on Principle. I have promised to stay here two or three months and help get established; also I have offered my services in the Reading Rooms for that length of time, so there need be no break in the work already started. Tonight we hold our first civilian services and the indications are that we will have a crowd. I know you will rejoice with me over this unfoldment. It has occurred to me that the War Relief work was the bud and the new church the flower. . . . You will be glad to know that our first Sunday morning service was full to overflowing, several people having to sit on the window sill. After the service there were expressions of joy and thankfulness on every side for the new organization. Upon seeing all the chairs occupied and people filling the window sill, I realized that we would have to make different seating arrangements in the future, and you can imagine my joy at being approached after the service by some one whom I had not met before, who told me that he had about twenty-five folding chairs that we were welcome to use. This man proved to be the local undertaker. With our ex-gambling tables, our 'undertaking' chairs, and an ex-saloon converted into a church and Reading Room, we feel that we have indeed 'turned swords into ploughshares.' "

Of the work in Deming, New Mexico, a report says:

"The value of the work in Deming and the surrounding country has been marvelous. There had been a small band of students here who had struggled along several years and many who were looking for proofs. As a result of the activities the local congregation is now located in a store building which has been attractively decorated by the Sunday School, at small cost. The congregation bought and paid for the furnishings that were formerly in the Welfare Rooms and is now buying a piano. The attendance has increased noticeably and there has been a great demand for work."

In an Oregon report we read:

"As a direct result of the Spruce Camp work one new Christian Science Society has been formed and reported to us. Undoubtedly there are others formed as neighborhood groups that conduct a regular service in the way that so many societies start, but which we have no means of knowing about. We cannot help feeling very sure that growth along this line will be externalized in the future out in the smaller places in our thinly peopled state."

In Hattiesburg, Mississippi, there had been no organized Christian Science services. Our Worker at Camp Shelby wrote us in June, 1918:

"It is indeed a privilege to be able to inform you that during the past week the writer has been of service to the Christian Scientists here in Hattiesburg in getting them together for organized work. This morning we held the first Sunday morning service with an attendance of at least twenty, in the home of one of the Scientists and it was much appreciated by all."

When the War Relief work at that camp was closed the Committee Room was turned over to the little group of local workers. They were presented with the books used in the Reading Room and purchased the furniture and fittings at a nominal sum. They wrote:

"Through the spiritual uplift and encouragement thus realized we are going forward and shall, thanks to your great kindness, continue to keep the room in the Carter Building and meet there on Sundays and Wednesdays and every day in the Reading Room. The money for the furnishings has all been raised and was mailed to you day before yesterday. For this help, and also for the set of fourteen volumes, we thank you many, many times. The good seed has been sown here and, in appreciation, we shall endeavor

to be good reflectors of Truth and sow the seed to help others."

In Alexandria, Louisiana, near Camp Beauregard, the work of the local Scientists received a great impetus through the advent of the War Relief Committee. When the soldiers' room was closed the furniture, literature and supplies were presented to the Scientists for use in the Reading Room. In their reply they said:

"We find ourselves quite unable to express our gratitude for this gift of Love. During the past year we have received such a wealth of comfort, inspiration and light through immediate contact with the activity of the War Relief work that we are indeed unspeakably grateful. This added gift of good conveys the idea of abundance better characterized in the words of the Master as 'good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over.' "

When the War Relief Committee first sent a Worker to Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina, rooms were opened in Spartanburg, a near-by town, and services were inaugurated to which the civilian Scientists were invited. There was much interest shown and the result has been the continuance of the work by the local Scientists who bought the equipment of the War Relief Room and are now holding their services in the room formerly occupied by the Committee.

In Pennsylvania likewise an incident of this kind occurred. Rooms were opened by the Committee in Gettysburg for the use of the men training at Camp Colt. The civilians began to attend and interest increased. When the War Relief work came to an end, the State Committee wrote to the Scientists in Gettysburg:

"By unanimous vote, the State Committee of Pennsylvania contributes the furniture and all equipment belonging to the Committee that is in the room in the Kadel Building at Gettysburg, to the local Christian Scientists, to help them carry on the work that was begun there by the enlisted men of Camp Colt. We will ever consider this little Society our beloved child. Knowing that its growth will be sturdy, we send it forth with loving thoughts, and with gratitude that the privilege was ours to give this necessary equipment."

The Chairman of the Texas Committee in one of his recent reports says:

"One outstanding feature of the work along the Mexican Border has been to start a number of new unorganized Societies in places where there had never been any before, and the rejuvenation of others which had lapsed or were about to lapse. This was brought about largely by the fact that the passing of our car with the name of the Committee painted on the side caused those interested in Science to stop the Worker, and in a short time he was able to make these people acquainted with others in their town who were also interested but who had not known of the presence of other Christian Scientists there.

"While helping to start the work on the Border, one instance of this kind came under my own observation. We had stopped at a garage in Mercedes, when we noticed a car draw up a few feet away. A lady got out and approached us. She lived just two miles from Mercedes, where a few Christian Scientists had been holding services in the home of one member, but she had been going to San Benito, eighteen miles away, because she knew nothing of the service in the town near at hand.

"In another instance a Society had suspended services in January and their card had been removed from the Journal. There was a Border camp at this place and through letters to the former First Reader, interest was finally aroused in

helping any boys who might be interested in Christian Science at this post. Finally the Chairman was able to visit this town on one of his trips along the Border and four or five Scientists met him. After talking about the need of maintaining a service, which any soldiers interested in Christian Science might attend, the Scientists agreed to start the work again the following Sunday and did so. A recent letter states that there is now a comfortable roomful at every service."

* * * * *

In submitting these pages we have endeavored to make an interesting and readable story and hope that the incidents selected and the testimonials of healing and gratitude quoted will convince all those who have supported the War Relief work of its practical and far-reaching nature.

In bringing this report to a close, the compilers wish to make it clear that the story has not been written with any thought of glorifying Christian Scientists, or of overemphasizing their part in the great war. No better words could be found to express their motive in preparing this history, than those of Malachi 3:16, "*Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name.*"

CAMP WORKERS

The following is a list of the Camp Workers and Welfare Room Attendants employed by the Christian Science War Relief Committee during the period between November, 1917, and June, 1919. The rapid changes which the camp work sometimes demanded made it difficult to keep a full and accurate record of the Workers, but this list has been made as complete as the information at the disposal of the Committee permitted.

CAMP WORKERS—UNITED STATES

Richard H. Allen
Walter Lone Anderson
Noblit A. Avery
Levis C. Babcock
William Pennington Baker
W. S. Baker
Quilter C. Ball
Albert E. Belk
Miss Simita Benatar
M. L. Bidwell
Franklin Blake
H. Graham Bleakly
Walter Thane Boyden
Charles A. Brand
Charles Henry Carby
G. Herman Carl
Leonard Tillotson Carney
John Robert Carr
Ralph Castle
Herbert E. Cather
Albert M. Cheney
Joseph Coffer
Jacob H. Cook
Royal A. Cooke
William E. Cooper
George Henry Cox
Henry H. Creighton
Edward Earle Daniell
Charles E. Davies
Thomas Harold Dexter
Louis E. Dill
Arthur W. Eckman
Durand Felter
Harry K. Filler
Benjamin L. Foster
William O. Freeman

CAMP WORKERS

Mrs. Jeanette George
William Templeton Giles
Arthur J. Lee Gillard
Harry C. Goddard
William J. Govan
Louis A. Gregory
Henry Higby Gutterson
Charles F. Hackett
Mrs. Rosemary B. Hackett
Mrs. Ida May Harvey
Roy L. Harvey
F. Carmon Herrick
J. Grant Hinds
Thelvin Howard Hobbs
Adam O. Hoppes
Fred W. Indermille
John Paul Jones
M. Phillip Jones
Miss Irene Campbell I. Jones
William Lawrence Keller
William E. Kellogg
Richard M. Kendall
Mrs. Henrietta L. King
Earl M. Knatvold
Frank C. LeBlond
Benjamin H. Leighton
Melville C. K. Little
Thomas W. Luce
Arthur W. Marriott
Herbert G. Mauch
E. Perry Maxfield
Mrs. Edith Gray Mayo
Earl McCloud
Clarence M. McDaniel
Sidney S. Morgan
John L. Mothershead
Horace Ambrose Negus
William Weaver Nott
William Merritt Pardue
Oscar Graham Peeke
Elmer H. Pepper
William H. Pevear
Archie Benson Pickell
Israel Pickens
William Leander Post
George Wilber Reed
Joseph W. Reynolds
Harry L. Rhodes
B. A. Robison
Clair D. Robison
Charles J. Roesser
O. Louis Saal
Charles Sapp
Samuel L. Schoenfield
Charles F. Schram
Mrs. Louise Severance
Floyd C. Shank
Charles F. Southworth
John G. Spangler
Mrs. Zilpha Ann Stack
Mrs. Edith S. Stearns
Robert S. Stearns
Ralph W. Still
Paul Stinchfield
Henry G. Streight
George H. Tangeman
John Beach Tillotson
Carl W. Tuerke
C. Fred Verleger
Mrs. Lillian G. Webster
Robert L. Weed
Lloyd E. Whitney

Edward Hartley Willard
Morris W. Wilsey
Charles V. Winn
Charles C. Wolcott
Robert A. Wood
Mrs. Lora C. Woodbury
Mrs. Laura C. Woodruff
Fred Yould

WELFARE ROOM ATTENDANTS—UNITED STATES

Mrs. Marion G. Barney
Mrs. Sophie Affron Becker
Miss Una Bedichek
Mrs. G. Harriette Blake
Mrs. Amanda Bodine
Mrs. Mary E. Boyce
Miss Laura M. Burroughs
Miss Missouri Cawthon
Mrs. Helen Coffer
Mrs. Ella Cooke
Mrs. Mary S. Cowan
Mrs. Clara J. Cunningham
Mrs. Marguerite Dexter
Mrs. Hattie L. Edmondson
Mrs. Charlotte E. Filler
Mrs. Shirley Flager
Mrs. Benjamin L. Foster
Mrs. Birdella G. Foster
Mrs. Lillie C. Gibson
Mrs. Helen A. Gutterson
Dr. Meta Haley
Mrs. Kate C. Hamilton
Mrs. Alberta C. Hinson
Miss Hettie Hutchinson
Miss Emily Jones
Mrs. Paul Kamanski
Mrs. Gertrude M. Keller
Miss Margaret B. Kinnane
Miss Mary E. Kline
Mrs. Scileta F. Langworthy
Mrs. Martha J. Loeber
Mrs. Gladys H. McCloud
Mrs. Evelyn Depew Miller
Mrs. Edith L. Morgan
Mrs. Eleanor L. Morgan
Miss Mary Radcliffe
Mrs. Emilie P. Reed
Mrs. Lucy Hays Reynolds
Mrs. Mattie E. C. Rhodes
Mrs. Charlie Salley Sanborn
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Saunier
Mrs. Charlotte Schoenfield
Mrs. Dora Searing
Mrs. Mary H. Seawright
Mrs. Helen L. Spangler
Mrs. Grace Nixon Stecher
Mrs. Flora Stinchfield
Mrs. Eunice Maud Talcott
Mrs. Mae D. Tangeman
Mrs. May Thompson
Mrs. Anna C. Tonielli
Mrs. Maude B. Whitehurst
Mrs. Marcia Wilson
Mrs. Zoe Z. Woolery

CAMP WORKERS

WAR RELIEF WORKERS—FRANCE

Miss Josephine E. Bowditch
Mrs. Mary E. Young Brown
William E. Brown
Mrs. Anna McCoy Campbell
Miss Agnes F. Chalmers
Mrs. Edith M. Coffman
Elbert G. Coffman
Louis J. Dubois
Mrs. Genevieve L. George
Herbert M. George
Mrs. Ida Nelson Higley
Mortimer J. Higley
Mrs. Edna H. Howe
Irving B. Howe
Everett W. Morgan
Mrs. Elmina A. Potter
Alden F. Potter
Mrs. Caroline S. Rowell
James G. Rowell
Miss Bird Stewart Scotland

WAR RELIEF WORKERS—CANADA

Mrs. S. Cornfield
S. Britton R. Foster
Major H. B. Stairs
Mrs. Alice Wheeler

WAR RELIEF WORKERS—GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Miss Kate E. Andreae
Miss Mary Elizabeth Belcher
Miss Evah Bolton
Miss Burlingham
Miss Amy J. R. Burton
Miss Susan F. Campbell
Mr. Eric Walter Carr
Mrs. Christabel M. Charlton
Mr. Samuel Clarke
Miss Leonora de Vere Condon
Mrs. Lily Mary Courtier
Mr. Cousins
Mrs. Annie M. Crawford
Mrs. Florence Davies
Miss Maud Fisher
Miss Ellen Graham
Miss Margaret J. Harding
Miss Dorothy Eileen Heywood
Miss Hicks
Miss Florine M. Hill
Miss Aimee Hochstetter
Mrs. Eugenia E. Ingles
Miss Jane T. Irvine
Miss Amy J. Jasper
Miss Mary Isabella Langrishe
Mrs. Grace Crosland Lawson
Miss Margaret A. Martin
Mrs. Anne McAlister
Miss Helen Mildred
Miss Evelyn H. Newton

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE IN THE WAR

Mrs. Annie Parker
Miss Margaret Philipson
Miss Elizabeth Pierce
Miss Caroline M. Primrose
Mrs. Violet Rhodes
Mr. Frederick R. Rhodes
Miss Mary L. Richmond
Lady Charlotte E. Rodney
Miss Alice E. Rose
Miss Roy
Mrs. Evelyn Smith
Mr. Charles W. Swift
Mrs. Marguerite Scott Till
Mrs. Alice Muriel Tripp
Mrs. Clara Waller
Mrs. Margaret Grant White
Miss Kate Williams
Miss Gladys Wheldale Wilson
Miss Lilia Witherby

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ARMY CHAPLAINS

William M. Bartlett
Herbert W. Beck
George R. Bonner
Walter S. Cross
Edward W. Dickey
Harry K. Filler
Don C. Gilman
Martin F. Jackson
Gustavus S. Paine
Arthur C. Whitney

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NAVY CHAPLAIN

Richard J. Davis

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN FRANCE

Arthur P. DeCamp

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE OF THE MOTHER CHURCH

MANAGER
Paul A. Harsch

ASSISTANT MANAGER
Arthur J. Wallace

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